

Sermon: Keeping the Voice of God Alive

Text: 2 Chronicles 22-24

Introduction:

God made some very important promises (covenants) to several people in the Bible. One of those was Abraham in Genesis 12—when God promised him that his descendants would become a great nation...and that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him. A second man who received some very important promises was Moses in Exodus 19-24 (and referred to in Hebrews 10:1-4).

In 1 Chronicles 17, God made a covenant with King David. Take a minute right now to go back and read **2 Chronicles 17:7-14**.

What promises does God make to David? One promise involves making David's name great. Another promise involves providing a place for the nation of Israel. A third promise involves raising up one of David's offspring to possess an eternal throne and kingdom. Are we seeing these promises being fulfilled?

As we come to our passage this morning—2 Chronicles chapters 22-24—one of these promises is in serious danger of NOT being fulfilled. Wicked queen Athaliah is literally killing off EVERY SINGLE LIVING HEIR of David. In fact, the only living heir of David is an infant by the name of Joash. The only thing that will save this vulnerable little baby is the heroic efforts of his Aunt Jehosheba (Jee-Ho-She-Ba) and Uncle Jehoiada (Je-Hoy-uh-Duh). The story is the stuff that they make great movies out of. The details that we have are incredible. But what is far more important is the way that God is preserving his promise to David (which take is directly to the birth of Jesus), and reminding us all that no matter what man might do—God is bigger and will ALWAYS make good on His promises. Nothing can stand in the way of His promises and His plan!

Examination:

- Read **2 Chronicles 22-24**
 - Who reigned in Jehoram's stead? Who had killed all of his brothers?
 - How old was Ahaziah, when he began to reign? How long did he reign?
 - Who were Athaliah's parents? Why is that significant?
 - What did Ahaziah do to get himself into so much trouble?
 - How did he die—and why?
 - Why was he buried honorably?
 - Who reigned in Judah now? What evil thing did she do to remain queen?
 - Who was the only one of David's descendants saved alive?
 - Where was he kept in safety, until he was anointed king?
 - How many years, after he was hidden in the temple, was it before Joash became king? Where had Joash been hidden?
 - Who was the High Priest in the temple at the time? How might this have helped in keeping Joash hidden away from Athaliah for six years?
 - Who did they gather out of Judah to come to Jerusalem to the temple? Why had Jehoiada called these men of authority?
 - Why was it important that Joash reign as king? What was this covenant?

- Why did the queen not suspicion something was going on?
- Where did they find weapons to use? Why do you think this is important?
- Who anointed Joash king?
- What did Athaliah do, when she heard the noise of praise? What did she do, when she saw what was going on? Where did they kill her?
- In verse 16, we read they made a covenant to be what?
- Who had brought the worship of Baal into Israel? What did they do with them?
- Uncle Jehoiada had been like a _____ to Joash.
- Chapter 24 verse 1 said, Joash was _____, when he began to reign. What would you think of having a 7-year-old as your king?
- Where had Joash lived, until he became king?
- How long did Joash rule in righteousness?
- What did Joash tell the priests to do, that they did not do immediately? Who did Joash call to talk to about this?
- What did Joash decide to do next with respect to renovating the Temple?
- Where was this offering to come from? How much was each person to bring? How did the people feel about taking up this offering?
- What did they use the money for?
- How old was Jehoiada, when he died? Who did Joash start believing, after the death of Jehoiada? What did they cause Joash to do?
- Which particular prophet brought them a message from God? Was this man related to Joash in any way?
- What was the message? What did the people do to the prophet? What was the last thing the prophet said?
- What happened to Joash? Why?
- Looking beyond the incredible drama of this story—what would you say is the big idea of the entire account? What do you think God wants us to learn from all of this?

Application:

How much news do you watch on TV? If you watch a good bit—what kind of impact does it have on you? Does it make you more peaceful? Does it bring you joy?

There is a huge hazard that can come with being too fixated on the news—we lose sight of the fact that no matter what happens on this earth, God is in complete control. Our story today is a clear reminder of this fact. The day that wicked Queen Athaliah went searching for every living relative of King David was a very bad day in the life and history of Israel. All seemed lost. But all was NOT lost. God put it in the heart of Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada to hide little Joash away and protect him. They took a HUGE risk in doing so. But the Lord was clearly working through them.

Remember today that no matter what we see happening on the news and in the world around us—God is not surprised by any of it. He's got this. And He has you in His hands. Remember today that you are a child of God—and you are an eternal citizen of heaven.