



## The Harness Devotional

**July 20-25**

**Jezebel and Athaliah: Royal Women**

**Verses: 2 Kings 8, 9, 11; 2 Chronicles 22**

2 Kings 8:18, 26 - He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. (NIV)

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri, king of Israel. (NIV)

2 Chronicles 22:3-4, - He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as the house of Ahab had done, for after his father's death they became his advisers, to his undoing. (NIV)

**Worship Song for the Week**

["No Weapon" by Fred Hammond](#)

This song reminds us that even when someone like Athaliah tries to "destroy the whole royal family," the weapons formed against God's plan will not prosper.

---

## **Monday - Day 1: The Infection of Influence**

**Focus:** "He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel... for he married a daughter of Ahab." (2 Kings 8:18, 26) Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. She brought the spiritual "virus" of her parents' idolatry into the royal house of Judah. Who we partner with and who we listen to changes the trajectory of our lives.

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, help me to be a godly influence on those around me. Guard my heart against toxic relationships and ideologies that would pull me away from Your truth.

**Reflection:** Who are the primary influences in my life right now? Are they drawing me closer to God's character or pushing me toward worldly compromise?

## **Tuesday - Day 2: The Counselor of Wickedness**

**Focus:** "He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong." (2 Chron 22:3) Athaliah didn't just do wrong; she mentored it. She used her position as a mother to lead her son, the King, into destruction. We all have influence; the question is whether we use it to build up or tear down.

**Opening Prayer:** Father, forgive me for the times I have encouraged others in their pride or sin. Grant me the wisdom to be a counselor of righteousness to my children, friends, and colleagues.

**Reflection:** If someone followed my advice today, would it lead them toward God's peace or toward spiritual "doing wrong"?

## **Wednesday - Day 3: The Ruthless Pursuit of Power**

**Focus:** "When Athaliah... saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family." (2 Kings 11:1) In a desperate bid for control, Athaliah attempted to wipe out her own grandchildren to secure her throne. Ambition without the fear of God leads to a heart of stone.

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, search my heart for selfish ambition. Help me to hold my "positions" and "platforms" loosely, preferring Your kingdom over my own status.

**Reflection:** Is there any area of my life where I am "destroying" relationships or peace just to stay in control?

#### **Thursday - Day 4: The Hidden Hope**

**Focus:** "But Jehosheba... took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away... He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the Lord for six years while Athaliah ruled the land." (2 Kings 11:2-3) While Athaliah thought she had won, God was preserving a "seed" in the shadows. No matter how dark the "ruling" power seems, God always has a hidden plan for restoration.

**Opening Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You that You are working in the hidden places. When it looks like evil has won, remind me that You are preserving Your promises behind the scenes.

**Reflection:** What "hidden hope" is God asking me to trust Him with during this season where things feel "ruled" by chaos?

#### **Friday - Day 5: The End of the Jezebel Legacy**

**Focus:** "Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window." (2 Kings 9:30-37) Athaliah's mother, Jezebel, died trying to maintain an image of power. The "paint and hair" couldn't hide a life of rebellion. True beauty and security come from a right spirit, not a manufactured image.

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, I don't want to live a life of "painted eyes" and false appearances. Create in me a clean heart and a right spirit that doesn't fear the truth.

**Reflection:** Am I spending more time on my "outward appearance" and reputation than I am on the hidden condition of my soul?

#### **Saturday - Day 6: The Sudden Shift of Justice**

**Focus:** "When Athaliah heard the noise... she tore her robes and cried, 'Treason! Treason!' ... So they seized her and she was put to death." (2 Kings 11:13-16) Athaliah's reign ended as it began—in violence. She cried "treason" when the rightful King was revealed. Justice may be delayed, but it is never denied.

**Opening Prayer:** Almighty Judge, I trust Your timing. Thank You that the "rightful King" (Jesus) is already on the throne, and every false power will eventually fall.

**Reflection:** How does the eventual fall of Athaliah encourage me to keep doing what is right, even when "wrong" seems to be winning?