

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 23.1, 2 Kings 11-13, Part 1 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 23.1, 2 Kings 11-13, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture analyzes the story of Joash's coronation in 2 Kings 11-13, focusing on the reign of Athaliah and the significance of covenants. He highlights Athaliah's attempt to destroy the Davidic dynasty and the role of Jehoshabab in saving the infant Joash. **The lecture emphasizes the importance of human action in fulfilling God's promises, noting that trust in God involves active participation and preparation.** Oswalt also explores the concept of covenant, contrasting it with Baal worship, which seeks to manipulate God for personal gain. **He underscores that a covenant with God requires complete devotion and trust, offering a mutual exchange of "all" between God and his people.** Finally, the lecture questions the people's destruction of the Temple of Baal, wondering if it was a sincere expression of covenant faithfulness or a mob action.

2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 23.1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



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on23_1.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 23.1, 2 Kings 11-13, Part 1

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 11-13, Part 1, focusing primarily on 2 Kings 11.

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 11 - The Crowning of Joash

Main Themes:

- **The Divided Heart and Its Cost:** The lecture introduces the idea of a divided heart and the negative consequences it entails, setting the stage for analyzing the actions and motivations of the key figures.
- **God's Faithfulness and the Preservation of the Davidic Dynasty:** Despite the apparent hopelessness of the situation with Athaliah's coup, God remains faithful to his promise to David through the unlikely means of a hidden baby, Joash.
- **Human Agency in God's Plan (Synergy):** Oswalt emphasizes that God works through people, and our willingness to act is crucial to fulfilling His purposes. Trusting God requires action, not just passive waiting.
- **Covenant and Faithfulness:** The repeated emphasis on the covenant highlights the importance of faithfulness both *from* God (in keeping His promises) and *to* God (through obedience and trust, rejecting manipulation).
- **The Nature of True Worship:** Baalism is presented as a form of manipulation, attempting to force the gods to do one's will, while covenant faithfulness involves a relationship of trust and obedience to God's will.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Athaliah's Usurpation:** Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah and granddaughter of Omri (via Ahab), seized power after her son's death and attempted to exterminate the entire Davidic dynasty. Oswalt notes, "Because the instant she hears that her son is dead, her first move is to wipe out all of her children and grandchildren." He attributes her motive to a desire to eliminate any threat to her power and avenge the destruction of Ahab's dynasty by Jehu: "So, I'm going to wipe out the dynasty of David."
- **Joash's Rescue:** Jehoshabab, Ahaziah's sister (but not Athaliah's daughter), bravely rescued Joash, the infant son of Ahaziah, from the massacre and hid him

in the temple with her husband, Jehoiada the priest. Oswalt emphasizes the risk she took: "She's going to keep that Davidic dynasty alive, even at the risk of her own life."

- **Jehoiada's Careful Planning:** After seven years, Jehoiada orchestrated a coup to overthrow Athaliah and crown Joash king. He meticulously planned the event, involving the temple guards and emphasizing their covenant with God. The detailed preparations were to minimize risk and ensure the temple's protection. Oswalt highlights the synergy between faith and action: "He trusted God enough to act."
- **The Significance of Covenant:** The lecture repeatedly emphasizes the covenant, highlighting its central role in the narrative. The coronation involves a renewal of the covenant between God, the king, and the people. Oswalt states: "He made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people that they would be the Lord's people." He connects this to the suppression of Baalism: "So, the question is faithfulness from God and faithfulness to God."
- **Baalism vs. Covenant Relationship:** Oswalt contrasts Baal worship with the covenant relationship with God. Baalism is characterized by an attempt to manipulate the gods for personal gain ("It's about making the gods do my will"), while the covenant involves trust, obedience, and a mutually beneficial relationship with God ("I trust you, and I will live a life like yours"). He emphasizes the incredible offer of covenant: "You enter into a covenant with God, you give him your all in return for his all. What a deal. What a deal."
- **The Destruction of the Temple of Baal:** Following Joash's coronation, the people tore down the Temple of Baal and killed its priest. Oswalt questions the people's motive, wondering if this was a true expression of their commitment to the covenant or simply a mob action.

Quotes:

- "Because the instant she hears that her son is dead, her first move is to wipe out all of her children and grandchildren." (Regarding Athaliah's actions)
- "So, I'm going to wipe out the dynasty of David." (Athaliah's perceived motive)
- "She's going to keep that Davidic dynasty alive, even at the risk of her own life." (Regarding Jehoshabab's actions)
- "He trusted God enough to act." (Regarding Jehoiada's planning)

- "He made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people that they would be the Lord's people." (Regarding the covenant renewal)
- "It's about making the gods do my will." (Regarding Baalism)
- "You enter into a covenant with God, you give him your all in return for his all. What a deal. What a deal." (Regarding the covenant relationship).

Implications:

Oswalt uses this historical account to illustrate timeless principles about faith, action, and the nature of our relationship with God. It challenges listeners to consider the depth of their commitment to God's promises and their willingness to act on their faith. The contrast between Baalism and covenant faithfulness provides a framework for evaluating the motivations behind our actions and choices in life.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 23.1, 2 Kings 11-13, Part 1

The Divided Heart: A Study Guide to 2 Kings 11-13 (Part 1)

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. Why does Oswalt believe the Bible says so little about Athaliah's seven-year reign?
2. What does Athaliah do immediately upon hearing of her son's death, and what motivates this action?
3. How does God preserve the Davidic dynasty despite Athaliah's efforts?
4. What is the significance of Jehoshaba's actions in saving Joash?
5. According to Oswalt, why is it important to be ready to act before a crisis arises?
6. Why does Jehoiada make such detailed preparations before revealing Joash as the rightful king?
7. Explain Oswalt's concept of the "marvelous synergy between God and his people."
8. What is the significance of the repeated emphasis on the "covenant" in 2 Kings 11?
9. According to Oswalt, what is the fundamental difference between worshipping Baal and entering into a covenant with God?
10. What concerns Oswalt about the people's immediate destruction of the Temple of Baal after Joash is crowned?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Oswalt believes the Bible says little about Athaliah's reign because it considers her a usurper; she was never officially made queen but seized power on her own.
2. Athaliah orders the execution of all her children and grandchildren to eliminate any potential threats to her power and to wipe out the Davidic dynasty in revenge for the destruction of her family's dynasty by Jehu.
3. God preserves the Davidic dynasty through the actions of Jehoshaba, who hides the infant Joash from Athaliah, saving him from the massacre.

4. Jehoshaba's actions demonstrate immense courage and commitment to God's promises, risking her own life to keep the Davidic line alive.
5. Being ready before a crisis is crucial because God often doesn't provide a warning, and action must be taken swiftly and decisively when opportunities arise.
6. Jehoiada makes detailed preparations to ensure the safety of the temple, to prevent the assassination of Joash, and to secure the support of the guards, minimizing the risk of failure.
7. The "marvelous synergy" describes the dynamic partnership between God and humanity, where God works through people who are willing to act and take risks in accordance with His will.
8. The repeated emphasis on the covenant highlights the importance of faithfulness to God and the need to re-establish a relationship of trust and obedience, especially after years of Baal worship.
9. Worshipping Baal is about manipulating the gods to get what you want, while a covenant with God is about trusting Him, submitting to His will, and entering into a mutually beneficial relationship.
10. Oswalt is concerned that the people's destruction of the Temple of Baal might have been a mob action rather than a genuine expression of their commitment to the covenant with God.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the role of women in 2 Kings 11, contrasting the actions and motivations of Athaliah and Jehoshaba. What do their stories reveal about power, faith, and the preservation of God's promises?
2. Explore the significance of the covenant in 2 Kings 11. How does it function as both a political and a spiritual act, and what does it reveal about the relationship between God, the king, and the people?
3. Analyze the theme of trust in 2 Kings 11. How do Jehoiada's preparations and the people's actions demonstrate the tension between trusting God and taking initiative, and what does this suggest about the nature of faith?
4. Compare and contrast the worship of Baal with the covenant relationship with God as presented in 2 Kings 11. What does this passage suggest about the nature of true worship and the dangers of idolatry?
5. Evaluate Oswalt's interpretation of the events in 2 Kings 11, particularly his concerns about the people's destruction of the Temple of Baal. Do you agree with his assessment, and why or why not?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Athaliah:** The mother of Ahaziah and the granddaughter of Amri, who usurped the throne of Judah after her son's death and sought to eliminate the Davidic dynasty.
- **Joash (Jehoash):** The infant son of Ahaziah who was saved from Athaliah's massacre and eventually crowned king of Judah.
- **Jehoshaba (Jehosheba):** The daughter of King Joram and sister of Ahaziah who hid Joash from Athaliah, preserving the Davidic line.
- **Jehoiada:** The priest who orchestrated the overthrow of Athaliah and the coronation of Joash, playing a key role in restoring the Davidic dynasty.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or relationship, particularly between God and his people, involving mutual obligations and promises.
- **Baalism:** The worship of Baal, a Canaanite deity associated with fertility, storms, and rain, often involving practices that sought to manipulate the gods for personal gain.
- **Davidic Dynasty:** The lineage of kings descended from King David, whom God promised an eternal kingdom.
- **Usurper:** One who seizes power or position illegitimately.
- **Synergy:** Combined action or operation.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or anything that takes the place of God.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 23.1, 2 Kings 11-13, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

- **Why was Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, considered a usurper despite reigning for seven years?**
- The Bible considers Athaliah a usurper because she was never officially made queen or ruler. She seized power after her son's death, not through legitimate means, but by eliminating the royal heirs. This is likely due to the fact that she was from the line of Ahab and a granddaughter of Omri, and she was attempting to destroy the Davidic Dynasty, which God promised would reign forever.
- **What was Athaliah's motive for killing all her grandchildren and children upon hearing of her son's death?**
- Athaliah's primary motive was to wipe out the entire Davidic dynasty. This was likely driven by the destruction of Ahab's family by Jehu. To prevent any future claims to the throne from the Davidic line, she sought to eliminate all possible heirs, securing her own power and potentially retaliating against Jehu's actions.
- **How did God save the Davidic dynasty from being completely wiped out by Athaliah?**
- God preserved the Davidic dynasty through the courageous actions of Jehoshabab, the sister of King Ahaziah (but not Athaliah's daughter). She rescued the infant Joash, Ahaziah's son, from the massacre and hid him and his nurse in a bedroom within the temple, shielding him from Athaliah's murderous intentions.
- **What is significant about the detailed preparations that Jehoiada the priest made before revealing Joash as the rightful king?**
- Jehoiada's meticulous preparations, including gathering the guards, making them enter into a covenant and take an oath, and strategically positioning them around the temple and palace, highlight the balance between trusting God and taking responsible action. These preparations were not a substitute for faith, but an expression of it, demonstrating that trusting God involves actively participating in His plan. Furthermore, the preparations secured the temple and the Davidic line from counterattack.

- **What is the significance of the repeated emphasis on the word "covenant" in the account of Joash's coronation?**
- The repetition of "covenant" emphasizes the importance of faithfulness to God. It serves as a reminder of the relationship of trust and commitment between God and His people, especially in contrast to Baal worship, which sought to manipulate the gods for personal gain. The covenant highlights a mutual exchange: giving one's all to God in return for His all.
- **What is the difference between worshipping Baal and entering into a covenant with God?**
- Worshipping Baal was about manipulating a storm god and fertility god to get what one wanted - making the gods do your will. Entering into a covenant with God is about doing God's will, trusting in Him, and having a relationship with him in a mutual and beneficial way.
- **What does the story of Joash's coronation teach us about God's use of people to fulfill His promises?**
- The story demonstrates that God often chooses to work through people to accomplish His purposes. He doesn't always provide a clear ten-minute warning, so we must be ready to act in faith when the moment arrives. God's reliance on imperfect individuals highlights the dignity He bestows upon humanity, even knowing there is a chance we will mess things up.
- **What does the immediate destruction of the Temple of Baal after Joash's coronation suggest about the people's motivations, and why is the speaker hesitant to fully embrace it as a genuine expression of their covenant with God?**
- While the destruction of the Temple of Baal was a good thing, the speaker wonders if this was truly an expression of the covenant with God, or a riotous act done by a mob. The speaker is hesitant to fully embrace it due to the nature of mobs and their potential for both good and bad actions. He questions whether it stemmed from a deep commitment to the covenant with God or simply a reaction to the shift in power and the overthrow of Athaliah. The speaker expresses concerns about what they will do next, wondering whether it truly an expression of covenant with God, or a positive action done by a mob.