

The Boy who was King

Doors banged, feet clattered and rushed up and down the stairs and the passages and in and out of the rooms. Harsh voices shouted, frightened voices screamed and cried and terror filled the palace. Wicked Queen Athaliah's soldiers had been sent to murder all the royal family.

In a tiny bedroom, in a forgotten corner of the palace, two women held a baby close. When all was quiet they crept through the shadows, out of the palace and slipped into the temple.

Jehoida the Priest was waiting for them. He took little baby Joash in his arms. "Thank God you have rescued him." he said, for this tiny baby was the only one of the royal family to escape. If the The House of David, the true Kings of Israel was to continue this little boy must be kept safe.

Joash grew up in the Temple. Nobody took much notice of just another little boy but UncleJehoida and AuntieJehosheba took very great care of him. One day when Joash was seven there came a morning when somehow things seemed different. Was it that his uncle the priest took longer over prayers, was it that his auntie gave him an extra cuddle or was it that he had some new clothes? He knew it was special when Uncle Jehoida took him by the hand and said "Come with me" in a very solemn voice.

He didn't expect what happened next!

They walked into the great hall of the Temple. It was full. Full of soldiers from the Temple Guard, standing still and alert with their swords and shields ready.

Jehoida led him to stand by a huge pillar where everyone could see him and then from somewhere he took out a gold crown and put it on Joash's head. Every one cheered and shouted God Save the King!

Wow! What would Queen Athaliah say about that?

They soon found out!

She burst into the temple. "Treason! Treason!" she shrieked, but seeing all the guards she turned and fled, down the street to the temple of Baal, the horrible idol that she worshiped. The guard chased her and destroyed Baal's temple and statue and killed her!

That night there was peace in Jerusalem. The people said " Now we can worship the Lord our God"

But Jehoida had a special gift for Joash, his very own copy of The Book of the Law, God's Book. " Read this It will teach you to be a good king of Israel " he said.