

## Biggest Losers in the Bible Athaliah

### *She was a wife who incited her husband to do evil.*

- ✓ Divided Israel tries to unify to a degree—the south led by godly Jehoshaphat (II Chron. 17:1-6); the north led by evil Ahab and wife, Jezebel (I Kgs. 21:25).
- ✓ Athaliah was Ahab's daughter (Omri's granddaughter, II Kgs. 8:26), and either Jezebel's daughter or step-daughter. Like Jezebel she helped ruin Jehoram (II Chron. 21:1-6, 23:15-18), who died for following her advice 21:12ff.

### *She was a mother who counseled her son to do evil.*

- ✓ Athaliah and her northern cronies are an even worse influence on the only remaining royal son at this time, King Ahaziah, II Chron. 22:1-5.
- ✓ Her influence in a failed war leads to her son's death too, vv. 5ff.

### *She was a grandmother who killed her way to the throne.*

- ✓ To secure the throne Athaliah does the unthinkable, I Kgs. 11:1ff., II Chron. 22-10. This suggests she was responsible in part for the killings in 21:4.
  - ✓ Jehosheba, daughter of deceased Jerhoram and wife of the high priest Jehoiada, bravely keeps "the lamp lit" (I Kgs. 11:36, 15:4, II Chron. 21:7).
  - ✓ What should Athaliah's killings remind us of?
- ✓ Note the response to her death in 23:21 recalls Jehoram's, II Chron. 21:19,20.



Compare Athaliah and Jehosheba. While one was selfishly ruining the nation the other was selflessly raising a child who would later reform the nation.

What does Athaliah consistently do to the men in her life that a wife, mother, or grandmother should avoid doing?