

July 3 Answers

- 1) The overthrow of Athaliah. When Jehu killed Ahaziah, Athaliah (Ahaziah's **mother** and Ahab's **daughter**) made a grab for power. She killed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah and set herself up as queen. Only one of Ahaziah's sons escaped her bloody purge: **Joash**. He remained hidden in the temple for six years while Athaliah ruled over the land. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada the priest approached the army, the Levites, and the elders of Judah, and revealed Joash to them. They joined with him to remove Athaliah and restore the king to the throne. Jehoiada is an example of **courage** and **wisdom**. He was willing to **risk** his life to do what was right, but he **waited** patiently for the right time to take action. This teaches us the importance of careful **planning** when taking a stand against evil. Joel's prophecy to Judah. Judah had recently been the victim of a vast swarm of **locusts**, and Joel used this disaster to illustrate the coming "**day** of the LORD," a reference to the time when God's wrath will be **poured** out on the wicked and Jesus Christ will **return** to earth. Joel called on the people to **repent**, for if they did, God might still relent and "leave a blessing behind" (Joel 2:14). This teaches us that God's judgment can be transformed into **salvation** if people will accept His offer of grace and turn to Him in genuine repentance (Joel 2:13). Paul recognized a glorious truth in Joel: God is "Lord" of Jew and **Gentile**, and He saves **all** those who call on His name (Rom 10:12–13).