

You asked a question Thursday about why was Joash king of Judah not listed in Matthew genealogy? After taking time to research I think I may have an answer. As we covered in our talk Thurs, 2 Kngs 11:1-3 tells us Queen Athaliah murdered all the royal line of David. Or so she thought she did, so that she could rule as Queen of Judah like her mother Jezebel who was Queen of Israel.

However, Jehosheba (daughter of king Joram) hid the baby Joash from Athaliah inside the Temple for seven years. He would later become a boy king at age 7 with the help of priest Jehoiada. Joash represented the last of the royal line of David at that point in history. Had he been murdered too, there would have been no line of David and the royal line would have ended then and there. This of course would have had major repercussions on the messianic prophecies that Jesus would be born the royal heir of the house of David. But it was not to be as God's prophecies cannot be undone though Satan continues to try through history, and it not finished yet.

Why is Joash not mentioned in Matthew? The major clue is in 2 Kg 8:18-19. Matthew's genealogy actually skips 3 kings between Joram and Uzziah. The key to the missing names lies with Athaliah herself who murdered the royal line. Athaliah is daughter of King Ahab of Israel and Jezebel. Jezebel was a Sidonian, not Jewish and a Baal worshiper. Her name is now a curse word and associated with great evil. Athaliah married King Joram of Judah. She too was a Baal worshiper and help set up altars in the Solomon's temple. God condemns Joram for this great sin in 2 Kg 8:18. The next vs.19 says, "However, the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised him to give a lamp to him through his sons always."

Joram and Athaliah had a son whose name was Ahaziah. Ahaziah becomes king of Judah at the age of 22 and rules for one year and is executed along with those of the house of Ahab. After Ahaziah dies, Athaliah murders all the other sons of Joram, thus all of David's line is eliminated except for one and his name is Joash. He is hidden away from Athaliah by Jehoiada the daughter of Joram. Joash's mother is Zibiah of Beersheba. Joash becomes king at age 7 and Athaliah is executed. Joash reigns 40 years in Judah as a good king. Joash has a son and his name is Amaziah. Amaziah becomes a good king at the age of 25 and reigns for 29 years.

The three missing names from Matthew's list are Ahaziah, Joash and Amaziah. It appears clear that the reason they are missing is because Joram married outside the Jewish line when he married the idolatrous daughter of Jezebel and Ahab. There is such a curse on the house of Ahab and Jezebel, that the three succeeding kings of Joram are left off the list because his great sin of marrying Athaliah.

Another clue to the non-inclusion of their names is Ex. 20:5 - "You shall not worship [idols] or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and fourth generations." I think Matthew writing from the Jewish perspective was reflecting the Jewish belief of Ex. 20:5, thus Joram's sin visited the next three generations.