

The Woman Who Saved Christmas

2 Kings 11:1-3; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12

In 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22 we see how close Satan came to wiping out the Messianic line. But God used a woman named Jehosheba to save the day!

After Adam sinned God stated three things in Genesis 3:15:

1. He gave a PROMISE of a coming Messiah.
2. He made a PROPHECY of the virgin birth ("her seed").
3. He spoke a PROCLAMATION of war. It marked the beginning of a bloody battle that would rage throughout the ages. Satan knew the only way to stop the coming of the Redeemer would be to destroy the "seed" of the woman.

1. **First attempt—Cain slays Abel** (Gen. 4:1-8).

- Cain and Abel are born. But which one is the seed?
- Their individual offerings reveals which one is of Satan (1 John 3:12, *"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."*)
- But God gave another seed instead of Abel whose name was Seth (Gen. 4:25-26).

2. **Second attempt—Corrupt the entire human race** (Gen. 6:1-12).

- As men began to multiply on the earth, Satan pulled out all the stops. He was determined to corrupt the entire human race. *"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"* (Gen. 6:5)
- Because man was so corrupt, God was determined to destroy man from the face of the earth, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:7-12).
- After the flood, Noah's sons spread out upon the face of the earth. God calls one of the descendants of Shem named Abraham

and promises him a seed that will be a blessing to all the earth (Gen. 12). Now, God has narrowed the coming "seed" to the Jewish people. *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ"* (Gal. 3:16).

3. **Third attempt—Kill the Hebrew sons in Egypt** (Ex. 1:22).
4. **Fourth attempt—Athaliah's attempt to kill "all the royal seed"** (2 Kings 11; 2 Chron. 22:10-12). *"The royal seed"* are the descendants of David in succession to David's throne.
 - God revealed the seed would come through David (2 Sam. 7:12-16). Now the "seed" is narrowed to a single Jewish family.
 - Satan began to attack the Davidic line. In 2 Kings 11 the kingdom of God on earth was on the verge of extinction. The Messianic line hung on the life of one suckling infant named Joash.
 - Jehosheba rescued the one remaining descendent in the succession to David's throne (2 Chron. 22:11-12)! If Athaliah had been successful, there would have been no heavenly host praising God, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men" 840 years later. There would have been no shepherds coming to the manger in Bethlehem to see the savior wrapped in swaddling clothes. Dale Ralph Davis calls Jehosheba, "The Lady who Saved Christmas."¹
 - God could have stopped Athaliah Himself by giving her a massive coronary. But God works through human agencies to fulfill His plan—An obscure woman that is never mentioned again (1 Cor. 1:26-29).
5. **Fifth attempt— Satan's direct assault on Christ.**
 - *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law..."* (Gal. 4:4-5). Satan now knew exactly who the "Seed" was. He focused his attack upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Kings—The Power and the Fury*, Christian Focus Publications, 2005, p. 171.

- First, in His infancy (Mt. 2:16).
- 30 years later, following Christ's baptism, Satan tempted Him in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-10).
- Satan tried to have Him murdered in Luke 4:28-30.
- Satan tried to have Him stoned twice (John 8:59; 10:30-39).

➡ **THE CRUCIFIXION.** This was Satan's big mistake. God used Satan's plot to fulfill His plan of redemption!

- Luke 22:2-4
- Luke 23:35, 39
- The Bible says that Christ took everything that was against us and "*...took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*" (Col. 2:14-15).

➡ **What is Satan's plan today?** Satan knows he has already been defeated. He knows his days are numbered. His only hope is to delay the inevitable. So what he does now is:

- **Hinder** the preaching of the cross. Seek to keep as many as he can from hearing the Gospel.
- **Hamper** (oppose) all efforts of Christians who seek to win souls to Christ.