direction of not that the people were ordered not to worship the Lord but the failure of the ruling monarchann was with the Baal arms worship. It had such an opportunity in Judah as it had never had in Judah and probably surpassing what it had ever had in Israel. At any rate Athaliah reigned for a period of a few years and then there came a revolution among the people which was headed by the high Priest. These people under the leadership of the priest seized Athaliah and

slew her and made the young boy the king. They destroyed the house of Baal and

the Baal worship. The priest appointed officers we read in versel8 over the house of the Lord which looked very many much as if the worship of ⁶od was pretty much in a side position during the reign of Athaliah. So we have Athaliah presex succeeded by ^Joash here. Rather than look at this moment at the details of Joash's reign, which started in as a good reign and ended up not nearly so good, let us look right now for a minute at number 10, the death of Elisha.

Number 9 was the Baal crisis in Judah. Number, the death of Elisha. We'll jump ahead for the moment in the history simply to **remax** round out the account of the Baal crisis with the end of the great leaders who were used of God to put an end to the terrific danger from the Baal worship. We find in verse 14 that Elisha had fallen sick of the sickness with which he died. and Joash the king of Israel came down to him, wept over his face, and said to him, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horseman thereof." Was Joash remembering how Elijah had gone up into heaven with chariots of fire? Is that what he was

referring to here or is there another meaning to what he says? That I think is rather vital to the understanding of the next verse. Elisha tax said, "Take thou an all and he took the awl and "Take bow and arrow, and put and he took a bow and shot and then he took the arrows and he said, "Smite on the ground," and hesmote three times and so he won three battles. If only he had sense enough to smite ten times,

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