

# 2 Kings 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house.

## Analysis

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**And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 11: Preservation of Davidic line and covenant faithfulness. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. This passage occurs during the decline toward Israel's exile, demonstrating how persistent covenant unfaithfulness leads to national disaster.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 11 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Athaliah's Usurpation and Downfall) reflects the historical reality of progressive political instability and external threats, particularly from Aram (Syria) and later Assyria. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 11 regarding preservation of davidic line and covenant faithfulness?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשִׂמְחָה	כָּל	עַם	הָאָרֶץ	וְהָעִיר	שָׁקֵטָה	וְאֵת
rejoiced	H3605	And all the people	of the land	and the city	was in quiet	H853
H8055		H5971	H776	H5892	H8252	
אַתְלִיָּהּ הִוא	וַיַּמְּתוּ	בְּחֶרֶב	בֵּית	מֶלֶךְ:		
Athaliah	and they slew	with the sword	house	beside the king's		
H6271	H4191	H2719	H1004	H4428		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 11:10** (Parallel theme): When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

**Proverbs 29:2** (Parallel theme): When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

