

# SEED & BREAD

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder

In the Old Testament the Lord God (Yahweh) declared that He alone is God, that beside Him there is no savior (Isaiah 43:10-11).

In the New Testament we find that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14). This shows “Yahweh” and “Son” refer to the same person, the Savior of sinners. In the age of grace in which we live there are no co-saviors with Christ, who is the Savior of the saviors of His human lineage.

Many Bible students believe that the prophet Zacharias to whom the Lord refers in Matthew 23:35 is the son of Jehoiada, even though in Matthew’s account, Zacharias is the son of Barachias. This may simply be another name for Jehoiada, since “Barachias” means “God has blessed,” a fitting name for Jehoiada.

The story of Jehoiada and Jehoshabeath (her name is spelled “Jehosheba” in 2 Kings 11:2) is one of the most amazing in the entire Old Testament, and yet both they and their son Zechariah are virtually forgotten in our day.

The whole truth about these remarkable people is going to come out in the Kingdom of God, which will begin when He pours out His spirit upon all flesh, as is written in Joel 2:28: **And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.** That is when God will bring the people of Israel back to their land and set up the New Covenant with those who respond favorably to the light they will be given about the Savior. Jeremiah 30:3 says, **“For behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,” says the LORD. “And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.”** See also Joel 3:1. Jeremiah 31:31 declares, **“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.”**

After this, the people of the nations will rejoice, and God will bless them as well. Psalm 67:7 says, **“God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”** May He speed that day!

## SAVIOR OF THE SAVIORS

### The Story of Jehoiada and Jehoshabeath (2 Chronicles 22-24)

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A savior can be defined as one who rescues another from danger, like a lifeguard or firefighter. The one being rescued is dependent on the savior. In 1 John 4:14, the Lord Jesus Christ is called the savior of the world. **“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world”** (New King James Version throughout).

The Word of God mentions other saviors. For example, in Nehemiah 9:27, those who delivered Israel from their enemies, men like the judges, are called saviors. **Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who oppressed them; and in the time of their trouble, when they cried to You, You heard from heaven; and according to your abundant mercies you gave them deliverers who saved them from the hand of their enemies.** Future saviors are mentioned in Obadiah 21. **Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD’s.** There were times when even the Lord Jesus depended on others to save Him from wicked people. For example, Joseph saved Him when Herod tried to have the child Jesus killed after He was born.

Two Old Testament saviors were Jehoiada and his wife Jehoshabeath, who lived over 800 years before Christ and shortly after the time of Elijah and Elisha. They had a son named Zechariah, who grew up to be a prophet of the Lord. (He is not the inspired author of the biblical book that bears his name: *that* Zechariah lived much later; that is, around the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, or after the Babylonian exile and restoration of the Jews to the land.)

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Jehoiada and Jehoshabeath lived when the southern kingdom had fallen into the worship of false gods. Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel from the northern kingdom, became the queen of Judah through marriage. She was the most wicked woman of her time. Jezebel, Athaliah's mother, tried to kill Elijah the prophet, but God protected him (1 Kings 19:1-3). Athaliah's sons robbed the temple in Jerusalem of its treasure, which had been dedicated to God, and offered it to Baal (2 Chronicles 24:7).

Athaliah influenced her husband Jehoram to do evil and turn from God, and through him she tried to kill off the royal family of David (2 Chronicles 21:4-6). Because of his wickedness, the Lord smote Jehoram in his bowels. He died two years later (2 Chronicles 21:18-19).

Athaliah came close to terminating the line of David, but because of the covenant He had made with the House of David, God would not permit this atrocity (1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Chronicles 21:7). She had managed to slay six men who were in line to be king, but there was a seventh son whom she had overlooked because Jehoshabeath, the wife of Jehoiada, then the high priest, took him in and, under Athaliah's nose, raised him to be king. This was when he was an infant. His name was Jehoash.

2 Chronicles 22:11. **But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him.** This tells us that Jehoshabeath was an aunt of the infant Jehoash, and a daughter of the dead King Jehoram and sister of the dead King Ahaziah. We are not told if she was also the daughter of Athaliah, though no other wife of King Jehoram is ever mentioned. Yet she was also in the line of David, and she acted in his character and in that of her godly husband Jehoiada, and not in that of her wicked father and mother. She became a savior to the last heir of the line of David, the infant Jehoash.

When Jehoash turned seven, Jehoiada took him into the temple and proclaimed him king. When Athaliah found out about this, she cried treason. She tried to have the young king killed, but she was violently expelled from the temple and run through with a sword.

The years passed, and Jehoiada encouraged the boy to worship the true God. When Jehoash came of age, he married and had sons who carried on the Davidic line and preserved temple worship. After

his death his son Amaziah took the throne in his place, and the line of David continued (2 Chronicles 24:27).

God honored Jehoiada with longevity: he lived to be 130. No one after him lived longer. He was also the only high priest and nonroyal to be interred in the royal tomb (2 Chronicles 24:15-16).

There is an irony worth noting: Jehoash was a good king while Jehoiada was still alive, but after Jehoiada's death Jehoash turned against God. He refused to heed the law and the prophets and even murdered Zechariah, Jehoiada's son, who had rebuked him for his evil deeds. This occurred in the very place where Jehoiada and his wife had saved him. He wouldn't remember the kindness that Jehoiada and his family had shown toward him as a child.

He became so evil that his own servants killed him while he slept. Unlike Jehoiada, Jehoash was not buried among the kings (2 Chronicles 24:17-25). He is not listed in the genealogies of Christ in the New Testament (e.g., Matthew 1).

Two of the southern kingdom's greatest kings, Hezekiah and Josiah, had not yet been born, and they wouldn't have been born if Athaliah had succeeded in destroying the line of David. Even worse, the Lord Jesus Himself would not have been born, for eight to nine centuries earlier, His ancestors would have been prevented from having offspring.

Thus, Jesus' ancestors needed to be protected, and so Jesus, the Savior Himself, needed a savior if He was to be born in fulfillment of messianic prophecy. Jehoshabeath became that savior in the days of Athaliah and Jehoash.

There were also times when the written Word of God was being neglected. By the time good King Josiah reigned, there was only one copy of the books of Moses in existence, and even this was lost until high priest Hilkiah rediscovered it in the temple (2 Kings 22:8). This moved Josiah to command the people to keep the Passover unto the Lord as was written in the Book of the Covenant (2 Kings 23:21).

And so, like the living Word of God, the written Word also had its saviors, in this case Josiah and Hilkiah. Both the written law of Moses and the royal seed of David needed to be saved, and God provided saviors for both at the right time.

The Lord Jesus in particular needed to be preserved as He was to become Israel's Messiah and, in due course, also the Savior of the world. God promised to preserve Him (Psalm 41:2). He would become the Firstborn, higher than all the kings of the earth (Psalm 89:27, Matthew 1:25).