

“The Hand that Rocks the Cradle”

By William Ross Wallace (1819-1881)

Contrasting Motherhoods:

Athaliah and Abigail

1Sam. 25; 1Kings 11:1-16

2Chron. 22:2-3, 10-12

Athaliah

- Athaliah means: “Jehovah has afflicted”
Her pedigree:
 - Granddaughter of Omri the Idolater, builder of the of city of Samaria
 - 1Kings 16:25 - “Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.”

Athaliah

- Athaliah means: “Jehovah has afflicted”
Her pedigree:
 - Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
 - 1Kings 16:30-33 - “Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. 31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. 32 Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”

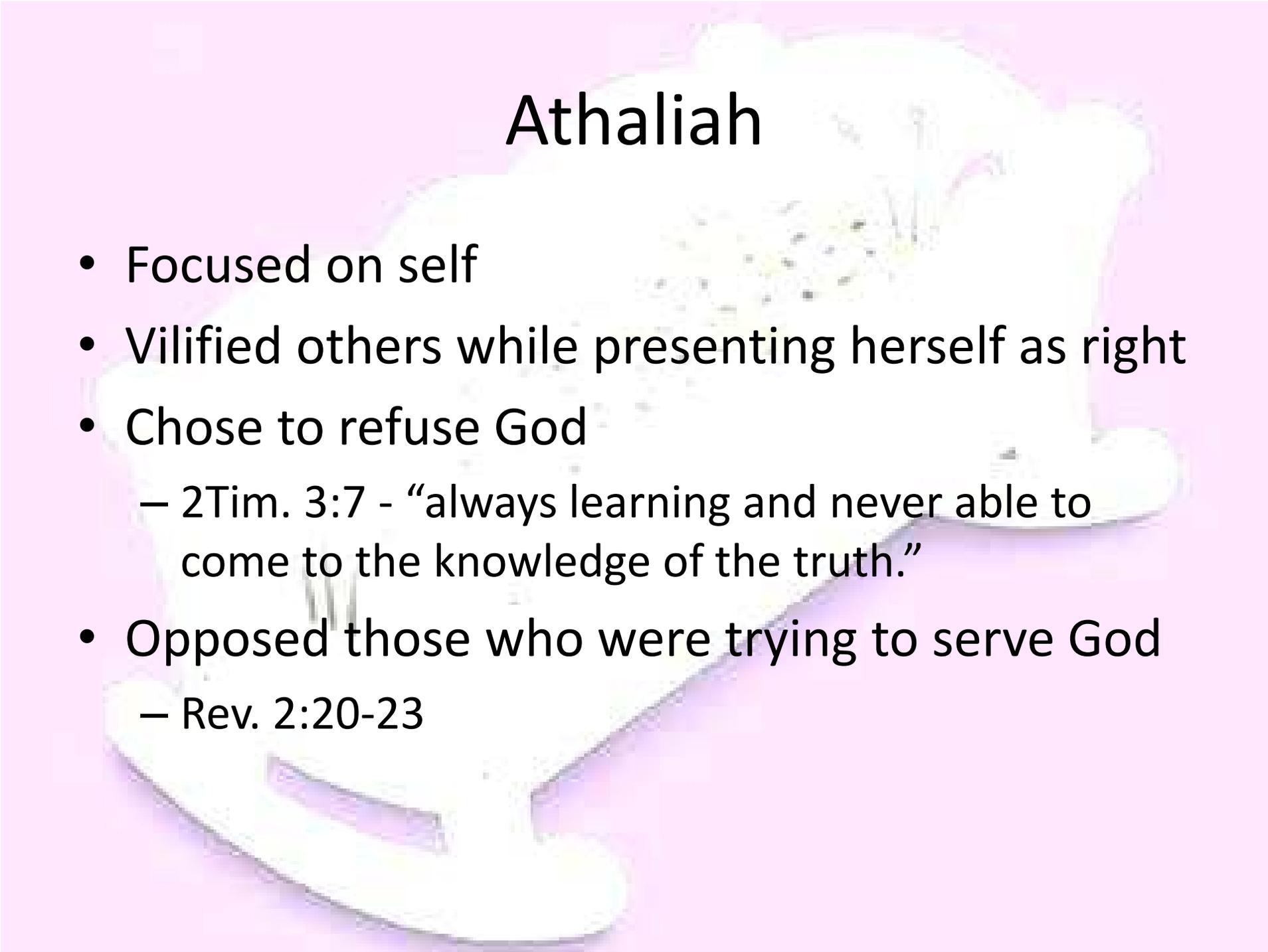
Athaliah

- She was a bad mother and a wicked counselor
 - 2Chron. 22:2-3 - “Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri. 3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly.”

Athaliah

- She was a vengeful person
 - 2Chron. 22:10, 12 - “Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah... 12 And he was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.”

Athaliah



- Focused on self
- Vilified others while presenting herself as right
- Chose to refuse God
 - 2Tim. 3:7 - “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- Opposed those who were trying to serve God
 - Rev. 2:20-23

Athaliah

- She tried to do unauthorized things; like Omri, she had no right to the throne of Israel
 - 2Kings 11:3 - “So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.”
- She was a consummate hypocrite
 - 2Kings 11:4-16, 14 - “When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, Treason! Treason!”

Abigail

- Abigail's name means “Cause of joy” - 1Sam. 25
- Vs 3 - A woman of good understanding (intelligence, knowledge, providence, sense, wisdom)
- Vs 14 - She was a woman of trust - normally all business was done by the males but here the servant risks punishment by going to Abigail and not Nabal
- Vs 18 - Abigail acted instead of reacting; she met the problem head on

Abigail

- Vs 19 - She was an organizer
- Vs 23 - She was well informed; she knew David was to be king (Vs 30)
- Vs 24 - She knew how to treat the king with respect
- Vs 26 - She stood in the gap, filling the role Nabal should have
- Vs 26 - “My Lord Nabal” - She had respect for her reprobate husband
 - 1Peter 3:1 - “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives”

Abigail

- Vs 31 - She understood conditions and the impact on people
- Vs 33 - She was a wise counselor
- Vs 39 - She was desirable because of her wisdom
- Vs 43 - David's big mistake: he should have not taken other wives, because Abigail was a great blessing

Contrasting Motherhoods

- A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.
- An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.
- “A mother has far greater influence on her children than anyone else, and she must realize that every word she speaks, every act, every response, her attitude, even her appearance and manner of dress affect the lives of her children and the whole family. It is while the child is in the home that he gains from his mother the attitudes, hopes, and beliefs that will determine the kind of life he will live and the contribution he will make to society.” (N. Eldon Tanner)