direction of not that the people were ordered not to worship the Lord but the

failure of the ruling monarchxxx was with the Baal xxxx 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 verse18 over the house

of the Lord which looked very xxxx much as if the worship of God was pretty

much in a side position during the reign of Athaliah. So we have Athaliah

xxxxxx 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 xxxxx 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 xxx said, "Take thou an awl

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 he smote three

times and so he won three battles. If only he had sense enough to smite ten times,