

## Treason

*Camp near Warrenton, Va., Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1863*

The Union Army occupied the town at that time. This is a diary entry by one of the occupiers<sup>1</sup>.

*I have attended church today in Warrenton. The sermon was good but had a little too much treason in it to suit us Union men – Elisha Hunt Rhodes Second Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry*

The Southern Confederacy came to nothing. The Lord Jesus Christ takes treason very seriously, whether it's in the pulpit or in the corridors of power:

The scripture mentions **treason** in three verses:

1 Kings 16:20 **the acts of Zimri, and his treason that he wrought whereby Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king** 1 Kings 16:16. Zimri died a suicide 1 Kings 16:18 but it was **For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD** 1 Kings 16:19.

2 Kings 11:14 **And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.**

2 Chronicles 23:13 **And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.**

Athaliah actually identified herself as treason personified because she rebelled against the rightful king and incurred the judgement of 1 Samuel 15:23 **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king** or in this case queen. As with the traitor Zimri God's judgement fell of the traitor Athaliah.

**So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there** 2 Chronicles 23:15 with 2 Kings 11:16.

Treason is simply rebellion against or defiance of Ecclesiastes 8:4 **Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?** Therefore as King Solomon warns **The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.** And as Samuel warned Israel:

1 Samuel 12:24 **Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.**

1 Samuel 12:25 **But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.**

Those warnings are of preeminent importance for both church and nation *now* as then.

**The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations** Psalm 33:11.

Note that Brother Rhodes<sup>2</sup> had this testimony **Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ** 2 Timothy 2:3:

“Still fighting and digging....We have had very little sleep for the past two weeks, and no one pretends to take off his boots. But I can stand it as long as the Rebels can, for we know we are causing them considerable trouble.”

**Lt. ELISHA HUNT RHODES, 2nd Rhode Island  
Battle of Spotsylvania, May 19, 1864**



#### References

<sup>1</sup> [www.amazon.co.uk/All-Union-Letters-Vintage-Library/dp/0679738282](http://www.amazon.co.uk/All-Union-Letters-Vintage-Library/dp/0679738282) *All for the Union: The Civil War Diary & Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes* edited by Robert Hunt Rhodes, p 115

<sup>2</sup> [www.facebook.com/CodieEashWrites/posts/lt-gen-ulysses-s-grant-intended-to-strategically-move-his-united-states-forces-a/3175890832467850/](https://www.facebook.com/CodieEashWrites/posts/lt-gen-ulysses-s-grant-intended-to-strategically-move-his-united-states-forces-a/3175890832467850/)