

2 Chronicles 25 - Amaziah's Good Reign in Judah; War Against Edom; Israel Defeats Judah; Death of Amaziah

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(I) Amaziah's idolatry and covenant consequences (25:1-28)

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(I) Amaziah's idolatry and covenant consequences (25:1-28) (Cf. 2 Kings 14:7)

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1 Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

2 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, only not wholeheartedly.

2 He did right in the sight of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart.

2 He practiced what the LORD considered to be right, but not with a perfect heart.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.

- The Chronicler chose three events from Amaziah's reign to teach important spiritual lessons:

(1) Amaziah followed the Mosaic Law faithfully in dealing with the people who had killed his father (v1-4; Cf. Deut 24:16). These actions transpired at the beginning of his reign.

(2) The king obeyed God partially in his war with the Edomites (v5-16). He unwisely hired mercenary soldiers to help him rather than seeking the LORD's help (v6; Cf. 20:12). However, when an unnamed prophet rebuked him, he obediently dismissed them, even though it cost him 7,500 pounds of silver (v10). Nevertheless, because he had hired them, he not only lost his money, but he also lost the lives of some of his soldiers, when the Israelites retaliated for having been dismissed (v13). Furthermore,

he disobeyed Yahweh by importing the gods of Edom (v14). Finally, he refused to repent (v10).

(3) Third, Amaziah disobeyed God by attacking Israel late in his reign (v17-24). This was due, from the divine perspective, to the king's idolatry (v20) and, from the human perspective, to his pride (v18). The consequences were that Judah's enemy destroyed a portion of the wall around Jerusalem, thus weakening its defense (v23), and stripped the temple, thus diminishing its glory (v24).

3 Now it came about, as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, that he killed his servants who had killed his father the king.

3 Now it came about as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, that he killed his servants who had slain his father the king.

3 As soon as he had consolidated his royal authority, he executed the servants who had killed his father, the king,

3 Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father.

- One of his first official acts was the avenging of his father's murder...

4 However, he did not put their children to death, but *did* as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for sons, nor sons be put to death for fathers; but each shall be put to death for his own sin."

4 However, he did not put their children to death, but *did* as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for sons, nor sons be put to death for fathers, but each shall be put to death for his own sin."

4 but he did not execute their children in obedience to what is written in the Law, the writings of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "Fathers are not to die because of what their children do, nor are children to die because of what their fathers do, but each person is to die for his own sins."

4 But he slew not their children, but *did* as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

- Amaziah's heart for God is seen by his sparing the assassins' sons in accord with Moses' principle that children must not be punished for the sins of their fathers (Cf. Deut 24:16)

The Edomites are Defeated (Cf. 2 Kings 14:7)

5 Moreover, Amaziah assembled Judah and appointed them according to *their* fathers' households under commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds throughout Judah and Benjamin; and he took a census of those from twenty years old and upward and

found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, *able* to go to war *and* handle spear and shield.

5 Moreover, Amaziah assembled Judah and appointed them according to *their* fathers' households under commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds throughout Judah and Benjamin; and he took a census of those from twenty years old and upward and found them to be 300,000 choice men, *able* to go to war *and* handle spear and shield.

5 Amaziah gathered Judah together and organized them according to their ancestral households under commanders of thousands and hundreds throughout Judah and Benjamin. He then mustered an army from those who were 20 years old and older. He discovered that there were 300,000 elite soldiers qualified for war duty and capable of handling spears and shields.

5 Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.

6 He also hired a hundred thousand valiant warriors from Israel for a hundred talents of silver.

6 He hired also 100,000 valiant warriors out of Israel for one hundred talents of silver.

6 He also hired 100,000 elite forces from Israel, paying 100 talents of silver for their services.

6 He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

7 But a man of God came to him saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel come with you, for the LORD is not with Israel *nor with* any of the sons of Ephraim.

7 But a man of God came to him saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel *nor with* any of the sons of Ephraim.

7 A man came from God and warned him, "Your majesty, don't let the army of Israel accompany you into battle, because the LORD isn't with any of the descendants of Ephraim.

7 But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.

- Amaziah's interest in military affairs was manifested by his conscripting an army of 300,000 men. He even went so far as to hire 100,000 mercenary Israelites for 100 talents of silver (~33 tons).

— However, this was tantamount to making an ungodly alliance, which was made pointedly clear to him by a man of God (whose name is unknown), who reminded the king that the Lord was not with Israel, so He would not be with Judah in battle if Israel went along.

8 But if you do go, do *it*, be strong for the battle; yet God will bring you down before the enemy, for God has the power to help and to bring down."

8 But if you do go, do *it*, be strong for the battle; yet God will bring you down before the enemy, for God has power to help and to bring down."

8 But if you do go, strengthen yourself for war. Do you think God will throw you down before the enemy, since God has the power both to help or to overthrow?"

8 But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

9 Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what *are* we to do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD has much more to give you than this."

9 Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what *shall* we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD has much more to give you than this."

9 Amaziah asked the man of God, "What are we to do about the 100 talents that I have paid to the army of Israel?"

The man of God answered, "The LORD has a lot more than that to give you!"

9 And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.

- Amaziah was convinced of the correctness of this advice, but wondered how he would get back the silver he had already paid

— After all, he has the example of Jehoshaphat and Asa in the past. He should know that God would not want him to hire men of Israel. To this the prophet responded that God could more than make it up to Amaziah.

10 Then Amaziah dismissed the troops which came to him from Ephraim, to go home; so their anger burned against Judah, and they returned home in fierce anger.

10 Then Amaziah dismissed them, the troops which came to him from Ephraim, to go home; so their anger burned against Judah and they returned home in fierce anger.

10 So Amaziah sent the troops home who had arrived from Ephraim. They flew into a rage against Judah but left for home very angry.

10 Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

11 Now Amaziah gathered his courage and led his people out, and went to the Valley of Salt, and struck and killed ten thousand of the sons of Seir.

11 Now Amaziah strengthened himself and led his people forth, and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 of the sons of Seir.

11 But Amaziah encouraged himself and led his army out to the Salt Valley to kill 10,000 soldiers from Seir.

11 And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.

- So Amaziah sent the Israelites home, but they became angry (furious and in a great rage) that they were prevented from participation. No doubt they felt gyped out of their plunder. — Judah then marched against the men of Seir (Edomites; Cf. Gen 36:9; 2 Chr 20:2 with 20:22) in the Valley of Salt (probably the salt plains south of the Dead Sea) and killed 10,000 of them (for other battles fought there see, Gen 14:3; 1 Chr 18:12)

12 The sons of Judah also captured ten thousand alive and brought them to the top of the cliff, and threw them down from the top of the cliff so that they were all dashed to pieces.

12 The sons of Judah also captured 10,000 alive and brought them to the top of the cliff and threw them down from the top of the cliff, so that they were all dashed to pieces.

12 The army of Judah captured another 10,000 prisoners and took them to the top of a cliff and threw them down from there where they all were dashed to pieces.

12 And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.

13 But the troops whom Amaziah sent back, *those* not going with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck and killed three thousand of them, and plundered a large amount of spoils.

13 But the troops whom Amaziah sent back from going with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 of them and plundered much spoil.

13 Meanwhile, the troops that Amaziah had sent home from the battle raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth-horon, killing 3,000 people and taking a large amount of war booty.

13 But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Bethhoron, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil.

- With unusual brutality the Judeans took an additional 10,000 men as prisoners and threw them over a cliff to their deaths

— Meanwhile the frustrated Israelite troops raided Judean outposts in central and southern Israel, killed 3,000 persons, and took great amounts of their possessions

Amaziah Rebuked for Idolatry

14 Now after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up as his gods. Then he bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

14 Now after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought the gods of the sons of Seir, set them up as his gods, bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

14 Later, Amaziah returned from slaughtering the Edomites, but he brought back the gods that had belonged to the men of Seir, set them up as his own gods, worshipped them, and sacrificed offerings to them.

14 Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.

- When Amaziah returned from his victory over the Edomites, he brought as a part of the spoils the idols of that land. It is amazing that this man would do a thing like this, but it reveals the iniquity that is in the human heart.

15 So the anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people who have not saved their own people from your hand?"

15 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people who have not delivered their own people from your hand?"

15 As a result, the Lord became angry with Amaziah and sent a prophet to him, who asked him, "Why did you seek the gods of a people who were unable to deliver their own nation from you?"

15 Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?

- He went so far as to set them up and worship them, a blasphemous act that prompted the Lord to send a prophet (also anonymous; Cf. 25:7) to rebuke him: Why, the man of God asked, should Amaziah worship gods which could not even save their own worshippers?

Ahaz worshipped the gods of those that had conquered him (Cf. 28:23), but to worship the gods of those whom Amaziah had conquered (v14), who could not protect their own worshippers, was the greatest of absurdities. If he had cast the idols down from the rock and broken them to pieces, instead of the prisoners (v12), he would have manifested more of the piety as well as more of the pity of an Israelite; but perhaps for that barbarous inhumanity he was given up to this ridiculous idolatry.

Idolatry was a serious matter because it struck at the heart of God's relationship with His people. God blessed Israel with the opportunity to have an intimate personal relationship with the living sovereign LORD as no other people in the world then. To turn from this privilege to pursue dead idols was the height of insolence (Cf. Ex 20:5). From the time that Amaziah turned from *Yahweh*, God began to turn against him—by using the faithful in Judah as His instruments of judgment (v27).

16 As he was talking with him, the king said to him, "Have we appointed you to be a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be put to death?" Then the prophet stopped and said, "I know that God has planned to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

16 As he was talking with him, the king said to him, "Have we appointed you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?" Then the prophet stopped and said, "I know that God has planned to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

16 But even while the prophet⁴ was speaking, the king asked him, "Did we appoint you to be a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?"

So the prophet stopped speaking, but he also said, "I know God has determined to destroy you, because you've done all this and ignored my counsel."

16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

- The king was cut to the quick and threatened to kill the man of God on the spot if he would not desist

— In his last words to the king, the prophet announced that Amaziah would come to know God's punishment because of his idolatry and rejection of the prophet's counsel

Amaziah Defeated by Joash of Israel (Cf. 2 Kings 14:8-14)

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent *word* to Joash the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu, the king of Israel, saying, "Come, let's face each other."

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu, the king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face each other."

17 After this, King Amaziah of Judah sought some advice and then challenged Jehoahaz' son King Joash of Israel, the grandson of Jehu, telling him, "Come out and let's fight each other!"

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face.

- Amaziah then turned his attention to the Israelite raids on his outposts. He in effect challenged Jehoash king of Israel (grandson of Jehu) to wage war, "eyeball to eyeball." Joash replies to Amaziah with a little parable (v18)...

18 But Joash the king of Israel sent a *reply* to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thorn bush that was in Lebanon sent *word* to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.' But a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thorn bush.

18 Joash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thorn bush which was in Lebanon sent to the cedar which was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.' But there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon and trampled the thorn bush.

18 But King Joash of Israel replied to King Amaziah of Judah, "There once was a thorn bush in Lebanon that sent an invitation to the cedar of Lebanon that read 'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.' Right about then, a wild animal in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thorn bush.

18 And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.

- Jehoash answered in the form of a parable that concerned a thistle (Amaziah) who demanded of a cedar (Jehoash) that the cedar give his daughter as a wife for the thistle's son. The thistle was rewarded for his presumptuousness by being overrun by a wild beast (Israel's army).

19 You said, 'Behold, you have defeated Edom.' And your heart has lifted you up in boasting. Now stay home; why should you provoke trouble so that you, would fall, you and Judah with you?"

19 You said, 'Behold, you have defeated Edom.' And your heart has become proud in boasting. Now stay at home; for why should you provoke trouble so that you, even you, would fall and Judah with you?"

19 You claim you've defeated Edom, but you're really only puffed up with arrogant boasting. So stay home. Why stir up trouble so you die, and the rest of Judah with you?"

19 Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldst thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldst fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?

- Jehoash interpreted his own story by comparing Amaziah to a mere bush who, because he defeated the minor power of Edom, thought he was equal to a mighty tree, an insulting way of saying, "If you stay home and mind your own business, you won't get hurt." Amaziah would not listen (v19), so God judges him.

20 But Amaziah would not listen, for it was from God, so that He might hand them over to *Joash*, because they had sought the gods of Edom.

20 But Amaziah would not listen, for it was from God, that He might deliver them into the hand of *Joash* because they had sought the gods of Edom.

20 But Amaziah refused to listen, because the situation was being orchestrated by God in order to turn them over to the control of their enemies because they had pursued those Edomite gods.

20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.

21 So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh, which belonged to Judah.

21 So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh, which belonged to Judah.

21 So King Joash of Israel went out to battle against King Amaziah of Judah, and they fought at Beth-shemesh, which is part of Judah's territory.

21 So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah.

22 And Judah was defeated by Israel, and they fled, every man to his tent.

22 Judah was defeated by Israel, and they fled each to his tent.

22 Judah was defeated by Israel, and every soldier ran home.

22 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent.

- God had determined to use Jehoash as His punishing rod for Amaziah's idolatry: Israel attacked Judah, achieved a smashing victory, and captured Amaziah himself at Beth-

shemesh (15 miles SW of Jerusalem)

23 Then Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits.

23 Then Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, 400 cubits.

23 King Joash of Israel captured Joash's son King Amaziah of Judah, the grandson of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh and brought him back to Jerusalem, where he broke down 400 cubits of the wall of Jerusalem from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.

23 And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

- From there they brought the humiliated king to Jerusalem itself, broke down a long section (600 feet) of its walls from the Ephraim Gate (Cf. Neh 8:16; 12:39) in the N to the NW Corner Gate (Cf. Jer 31:38, Zech 14:10)

24 *He took* all the gold and silver and all the utensils which were found in the house of God with Obed-edom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages too, and returned to Samaria.

24 *He took* all the gold and silver and all the utensils which were found in the house of God with Obed-edom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

24 He confiscated all the gold, silver, and utensils that he could find in the care of Obed-edom inside of God's Temple and inside the royal palace. Then he took some hostages and returned to Samaria.

24 And he took all the gold and the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obededom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

- He took all the temple articles that were under the care of the family of Obed-Edom (Cf. 1 Chr 26:4-8) and the palace treasures and prisoners back to Samaria

The Death of Amaziah (Cf. 2 Kings 14:17-20)

25 And Amaziah, the son of Joash king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash, son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

25 And Amaziah, the son of Joash king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash, son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

25 Joash's son Amaziah, king of Judah, lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoahaz' son Joash, king of Israel.

25 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from the first to the last, behold, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, behold, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

26 The rest of Amaziah's accomplishments, from first to last, are recorded in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel, are they not?

26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

27 From the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD they conspired against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent *men* after him to Lachish, and they killed him there.

27 From the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD they conspired against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

27 From the time that Amaziah abandoned his seeking the LORD, some people conspired against him in Jerusalem, so he ran away to Lachish, but they pursued him to Lachish and killed him there.

27 Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there.

- He had become unpopular with his own people in Jerusalem, however, and was forced finally to go into exile at Lachish (~30 miles SW of Jerusalem). He was not safe even there, for a band of assassins found him, killed him, and brought his body back for burial. His father Joash had been assassinated too.

28 Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

28 Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

28 They brought him back on horses and buried him with his ancestors in the city of Judah.

28 And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

- The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the

LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

Deut 29:20

Ahaziah slain by Jehu (2 Kings 9)

Joash slain by servant (2 Kings 12)

Amaziah slain by Jerusalem (2 Kings 14)

All blotted out of Matthew's genealogy...