

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
AMAZIAH'S REIGN IN JUDAH
2 KINGS 14:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 25:1-28

Introduction

We switched back last week to looking at the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah. We started looking at king **AMAZIAH** of Judah whose reign is detailed in both *2 Kings 14:1-22* and *2 Chronicles 25:1-28*.

We saw last week how the first four verses of the *2 Kings* account and the first two verses of the *2 Chronicles* account give us some insight to the reason that **AMAZIAH** did that which was right in the sight of the **LORD**, but not entirely.

We saw how the problem he had in his life was a spiritual heart problem! He didn't have a **perfect heart** when it came to the things of the **LORD**. **i.e. He didn't wholly follow the LORD!** Oh how we need to guard our hearts lest we be found with a heart that doesn't wholly follow the **LORD!**

Last week we reminded you that King **AMAZIAH**, succeeded his father, King **JEHOASH (JOASH)**, who also started well, but then after the death of the **JEHOIADA** the priest, he turned from the **LORD** to idolatry and a group of conspirators assassinated him for his treatment of **JEHOIADA'S** sons. (*2 Kings 12:19-21*)

So basically we see a similar pattern in **AMAZIAH** as we saw in his father, **JOASH—a good start and then a poor finish!** All too often in Judah, it was a **like father, like son pattern in many aspects**. In the case of both **JOASH** and **AMAZIAH** it meant that instead of turning from idolatry as they should have, in the end Judah only went deeper and deeper into the worship of false gods toward the end of their reigns.

Some of the Judean rulers such as **JEHORAM, AHAZIAH, and ATHALIAH**, had been strongly influenced by their close family association with the wicked king **AHAB of Israel and his wicked wife JEZEBEL**. So they were very much idolaters. But **neither JOASH nor AMAZIAH** started out as idolaters, but both were drawn toward idolatry later in their lives.

Just as his father **JOASH** did when he began his reign, **AMAZIAH** did what was right in God's eyes (*1 KINGS 14:1-3*).

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Now let's look at some details about this and other areas of his life that are revealed to us here!

I. WE SEE AMAZIAH FAILED BY NOT TAKING AWAY THE HIGH PLACES WHICH WERE A SNARE TO GOD'S PEOPLE! (*2 Kings 14:3-4*)

The people of the nation of Judah were just as susceptible to idolatry as the people of the nation of Israel were. **People are people wherever you go!**

The nation of Judah had a taste of idolatry because of the influence that **AHAB's family** had on the kings of Judah which extended to the people of Judah!

Once they had a taste of idolatry, they wanted to continue in it, because they liked it! It appealed to their flesh! They still wanted to hang on to the **LORD** for when they needed Him, but, they loved their idols. They continued to dabble with idolatry. **Dabbling around with sin is never a good idea! And sin will eventually bite you in the end!**

Numbers 32:23— "...be sure your sin will find you out."

II. WE SEE AMAZIAH FOLLOWED GOD'S LAW WHEN IT CAME TO DEALING WITH HIS FATHER'S CONSPIRATORS! (*2 Kings 14:5-6; 2 Chronicles 25:3-4*)

Here we see that he was true to the **LORD'S** commandments in following the laws for dealing with murderers given in *Deuteronomy 24:16* and quoted here.

He punished only the guilty persons themselves and not their children. In this matter at least, we see that **AMAZIAH** took care not to break the Law of the **LORD**, although in general he still was not up to the godly standards of his forefather **King DAVID**.

III. WE SEE AMAZIAH STRENGTHENED THE MILITARY POWER OF JUDAH! (2 Chronicles 25:5-6)

He concentrated all his energies and efforts upon strengthening the military power of his country, which had suffered decline during the rule of his predecessors.

But even after AMAZIAH drafted all of the young men over twenty years of age using the method that the LORD had given to MOSES in *Numbers 1:1-3*, his army was still only **300,000**.
(cp. RHEBOAM'S son ABIJAH who had an army of 400,000)

But AMAZIAH'S plans demanded more than these 300,000 men. So, he approached his neighbor, King JOASH of Israel, and asked for an additional 100,000 soldiers, in return for an advance payment of one hundred talents of silver.

IV. WE SEE THE LORD DIDN'T APPROVE OF HIS HIRING SOLDIERS FROM THE KING OF ISRAEL AND SENT AN UNNAMED PROPHET TO TELL HIM AS MUCH! (2 Chronicles 25:7-8)

This unnamed prophet came to King AMAZIAH, telling him that the LORD was against this close association with the idolatrous Northern Kingdom of Israel, and **ordered him to send the hired army home!**

Note several things that this prophet pointed out:

- A. **"For The LORD Is Not With Israel!"** (Vs 7)
Why? Because of their idolatry, the LORD could not bless!
- B. **"But If You Go... God Shall Make Thee Fall Before The Enemy!"** (Vs 8a)
Why? Because disobedience to the LORD brings only defeat!
- C. **"For God Hath The Power To Help, And To Cast Down."** (Vs 8b; Cp. Psalm 33:16-20)
Psalm 20:7—"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: But we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

V. WE SEE AMAZIAH'S PROTEST! (2 Chronicles 25:9)

If AMAZIAH had done things in proper order in the first place, he would not have hired these soldiers without **FIRST** consulting the LORD!

It was an expensive lesson for AMAZIAH to have to learn! **Have you ever had to pay a high price for not consulting the LORD about a decision you made?** I doubt that it cost you the equivalent of 100 talents of silver. (*At least I hope not!*)

Note the Prophet's response to AMAZIAH'S protest:

Vs. 9b – **"The LORD is able to give thee much more than this."**

Well, AMAZIAH **didn't like it, but he obeyed and forfeited all the money that he had paid in advance!** But he wasn't through paying!

VI. WE SEE THE ANGER OF THE ARMY THAT WAS SENT HOME! (2 Chronicles 25:10, 13)

The soldiers from Israel were sent home! But feeling insulted because they had been rejected by the King of Judah, they looted and destroyed entire cities of Judah on their way back to Israel.

But remember, this all could have been averted had AMAZIAH sought the LORD **BEFORE** hiring these soldiers from Israel!

VII. WE SEE AMAZIAH'S VICTORY OVER EDMOM! (2 Kings 14:7; 2 Chronicles 25:11-12)

As soon as AMAZIAH saw that his military power was sufficiently strong, he prepared himself for war against Edom, the province which had thrown off the yoke of Judea under the reign of King JORAM.

I've read that the king of Edom had spared no effort to strengthen their position and fortify their cities, especially their capital, Sela.

Sela was built on a high rock, it was made impregnable by a double ring of strong forts.

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AMAZIAH succeeded in defeating Edom's army and capturing the capital city as they killed 10,000 of the Edomites.

He then marched 10,000 more that they captured alive to the top of the rock of Sela and tossed them to their death off of the rock.

VIII. WE SEE AMAZIAH'S EGREGIOUS SIN IN HIS VICTORY!
(2 Chronicles 25:14-16)

Sadly, **AMAZIAH** also followed the example of his father **JOASH**'s later reign. Although **AMAZIAH** defeated the Edomites, he took the gods of Edom home with him and started to worship them!

This ought to be in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* as one of the dumbest things a king ever did! Even the unnamed prophet pointed out this stupidity! *(Vs 15)*

These gods couldn't bring Edom victory! What did he think they were going to do for him? Well, what they did was make the LORD angry!

IX. WE SEE AMAZIAH'S DEFEAT BEFORE ISRAEL!
(2 Kings 14:8-12; 2 Chronicles 25:17-24)

Out of pride, **AMAZIAH** foolishly decided to do battle against King **JEHOASH** of Israel even though **JEHOASH** warned him against it. The result of this battle was that Judah was soundly defeated!

2 Chronicles 25:20 tells us that **GOD** was behind **AMAZIAH**'s choice to go to war, because He sought to discipline **AMAZIAH** and Judah for worshipping Edom's gods.

Not only was Judah defeated, but **AMAZIAH** was captured and carried to Jerusalem to view the army of Israel breaking down the wall of Jerusalem, plundering the treasuries of both **AMAZIAH** and of Solomon's Temple, and having hostages carried off by Israel.

AMAZIAH and Judah were weakened and humiliated!

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This was just a foretaste of what **GOD** would do if Judah did not turn from its idolatry, a warning that Judah, sadly, did not heed!
(2 Chronicles 36:1-21).

Conclusion

AMAZIAH shows us once again that a half-hearted commitment to God and His Word often leads to grosser sin later on.

AMAZIAH did not tear down the high places as he should have, and later he adopted the worship of Edom's gods.

If we are not diligent in our obedience to the **LORD**, we may likewise descend into more significant sins. Let us endeavor to be faithful to **GOD** in all things, even the little things, so that we do not fall further.

Next week, **LORD** willing, we'll see **AMAZIAH**'S death and begin to look at the reign of his son, **AZARIAH** a/k/a **UZZIAH**.