

Lessons From Characters In Old Testament
Amaziah
Lesson 38

INTRO:

- A. Amaziah was the eighth king of Judah.
 - 1. **(2 Chronicles 25:1)**
- B. We read about his life and reign in **2 Kings 14** and **2 Chronicles 25**.
- C. In general, he did what was right but not like David (**2 Kings 14:3**).
 - 1. Amaziah did what was right, but “*not with a loyal heart*” (**2 Chronicles 25:2**).
- D. He avenged the death of his father when “*he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.*” (**2 Kings 14:5**)
 - 1. He did not kill their children because of **Deuteronomy 25:16**
 - a. In Israel, if a man killed the king, he killed the rest of the king’s family also, and then made himself king. Now, in Judah, a king has been murdered, but the murderers are executed as criminals rather than becoming king.
- E. Three occasions which are recorded in **2 Chronicles 25**:
 - 1. He led Judah to a victory over the Edomites. (**vs. 5-13**)
 - 2. Following that victory, he took back with him the idols of Edom and began worshipping them. (**vs. 14-16**)
 - 3. Being lifted up with pride because of his defeat of Edom, he challenged the king of Israel to battle which turned out to be a bad decision for him and Judah. (**vs. 17-28**)
 - a. When Amaziah sent word to Joash to come out and meet him in battle, Joash’s response was:(**vs. 18-19**)
- F. Judah was defeated by Israel but not solely by accident or coincidence.
 - 1. God caused it to happen “*because they sought the gods of Edom*” (**v. 20**).

I. Lessons From Amaziah:

- A. Amaziah did what was right, but “*not with a loyal heart*” (**25:2**).
 - 1. God wanted all of the king’s heart, not just a portion of it (**Deuteronomy 10:12-13**).
 - 2. God’s desire is not only for us to take the right action and say the right things, but for all of it to flow from our heart, that is, be done in sincerity/ with the right spirit (**Mark 7:6**)
- B. A man of God declared to Amaziah, “*...the Lord is not with Israel...*” (**25:7**).
 - 1. The Lord was telling Amaziah not to hire Israel’s soldiers in his army.
 - a. When the Lord says He is not with them, the question that never needs to be asked is, “Why not?”.
 - b. Because in every instance, the reason, the only reason, is sin!
 - 2. When God’s people choose not to submit to Him (and as a result leave Him), that causes Him to forsake them.
- C. The same messenger of God told Amaziah, (**25:8**).
 - 1. This should always serve as a reminder for all people of all ages; us included: God rules in the affairs of men (**Daniel 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21**).
 - a. He can exalt or bring down.
 - 2. For those who seek Him according to His will, He is a great Helper (**Psalms 46:1**).

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- D. The man of God further said to Amaziah, **(25:9)**.
1. Amaziah had paid a large sum of money to soldiers from Israel.
 - a. If those men did not fight for Judah, all of that money would be lost.
 - b. But the man of God tells Amaziah the Lord can provide more than what was lost.
 2. As Christians we are told that God is **(Ephesians 3:20)**.
 - a. Like David, He causes our cup to “*runneth over*” **(Psalm 23:5)**.
 - b. He makes us “*more than conquerors*” **(Romans 8:37)**.
- E. In what Amaziah did, we are reminded of the vanity of imitating false religious practices.
1. **(25:14)**.
 2. It ought not be surprising to read in the next verse **(25:15)**.
 - a. God is a jealous God **(Exodus 34:14)**
 - b. He will not share with anyone or anything the loyalty which should be given to Him and to Him alone.
 3. Amaziah lost sight of that truth and got caught up in the practice of imitating false religious practices and it cost him dearly.
- F. “*Amaziah turned away from following the Lord*” **(25:27)**.
1. What a sad statement to read!
 - a. No mistake in life is greater!
 2. Let us be reminded of when so many of Jesus’ disciples “*went back and walked with Him no more*” **(John 6:66)**.
 3. Trying to understand what causes a person to turn away from the Lord can be a very complex, but one thing’s for sure: anytime even one person leaves the Lord, it is a tragedy of major proportions!
 4. Amaziah’s fateful choice reminds us of that reality.

LESSON 39

Jeroboam II and The Prophet Jonah

2 Kings 14:23-29