

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
AMAZIAH'S HEART PROBLEM
2 KINGS 14:1-4; 2 CHRONICLES 25:1-2

Introduction

READ THE SCRIPTURE

Well we are finally looking at the reign of **KING AMAZIAH** of Judah. When we last were looking at the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah, we saw the death of **AMAZIAH'S** father, **KING JOASH** of Judah.

Remember how **JOASH** had been hidden in the Temple by **JEHOIADA** the priest as an infant. Then at the ripe old age of 7 years old he ascended to the throne and reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. As long as **JEHOIADA** the priest was alive, **JOASH** did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD. But as soon as **JEHOIADA** died, **JOASH** allowed the princes of Judah to talk him into carrying the nation into idolatry again as it was when queen **ATHALIAH** reigned over Judah!

The **LORD** sent Prophets to Judah and **JOASH**, “to bring them again unto the LORD” (2 Chronicles 24:19), but they would not listen to the prophets.

So, the Spirit of God sent the Prophet **ZECHARIAH**, who just so happened to be the son of the late priest **JEHOIADA**, with a solemn message to King **JOASH** and the people of Judah. **The message was a question and a statement!** (2 Chronicles 24:20b)

The question asked was, “*Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper?*” **That’s a good question! Remember what the LORD told Joshua before Israel entered the Promised Land?** *Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Then the Psalmist David, *Psalm 1:1-3—1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

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So, we see that the question was spot on! It revealed the root of their problem!

Then the statement was, “*...because ye have forsaken the LORD, the LORD hath also forsaken you.*”

Well, this should have been expected from what the LORD had told them by the mouth of Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy a summary of which can be found in **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**. (This was plain and simple and **ZECHARIAH** was not telling **JOASH** anything other than what the **LORD** had already said MANY times before!)

Well, the reaction of **KING JOASH** to this was to command that **ZECHARIAH** be stoned to death which was carried out in the court of the house of the **LORD**. This was done in spite of the fact that **ZECHARIAH'S** father, **JEHOIADA**, had been kind to **JOASH** in many, many ways!

ZECHARIAH'S parting words as he was stoned to death were these—**“The LORD look upon it, and require it.”** (2 Chronicles 24:22)

And the **LORD** did! The **LORD** allowed **JOASH** and **JUDAH** to be invaded by the Syrians.

The Syrians destroyed and spoiled all the princes of the people who had talked **JOASH** into taking the nation back into idolatry. The latter part of **2 Chronicles 24:24** makes it very clear that Syria executed judgment against **JOASH!**

2 Chronicles 24:25 says that when Syria departed Judah, they left **JOASH** in great diseases and some of his own servants conspired against him and killed him in his own bed because of what he had done to the sons of **JEHOIADAH** the priest. And though **JOASH** was buried in the city of David, they did not bury him in the sepulchres of the kings.

So **AMAZIAH** his son began to reign in his father’s stead at the age of 25. And the Scripture tells us that he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. So as we begin to take a look at **AMAZIAH** tonight, I want us to focus on his heart problem.

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EARLY ON WE SEE THAT HE DID RIGHT, BUT NOT WITH A PERFECT HEART! (2 Chronicles 25:1-2)

What is this PERFECT HEART that the Scripture speaks of here?

Well, we know that it is a different kind of heart than we were born with!

Jeremiah 17:9—“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

In the Scripture, we find that the word “HEART” is used to describe more than just the physical, beating organ in the chest that pumps our blood through our body. The word is also used to describe the CENTER OF SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY as well as ALL THE OPERATIONS OF HUMAN LIFE!

We might say that a man's HEART is the driving force in his life!

The problem is that the HEART of man is NATURALLY WICKED for ALL that are born in ADAM! (Which includes everyone except JESUS CHRIST! Luke's Gospel tells us that JESUS was miraculously conceived in the womb of the VIRGIN MARY by way of the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD and so CHRIST was BORN OF GOD, not of ADAM!)

The wicked nature of man's HEART didn't take long to manifest itself in the life of ADAM and EVE's first born, CAIN.

The “Way Of CAIN” mentioned by JUDE refers to those who reject the LORD's way of redemption by the blood and seek to come to the LORD in their own way! When CAIN's offering was rejected, his natural, wicked HEART was manifested through his murderous ways!

Well, CAIN was the first of many born with a natural HEART! Abel was also born with a natural HEART! But Abel's HEART was changed by his FAITH in GOD!

Hebrews 11:4—“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”

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The results of men's natural, wicked HEARTS is also seen in NOAH'S day! *Genesis 6:5*— And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The words “every imagination” there means “the whole imagination”. In fact, the Hebrew word translated “imagination” signifies not only the “imagination,” but also the purposes and desires!

The word “continually” is translated from a Hebrew word meaning “every day.”

After the flood, the LORD said this to Noah in *Genesis 8:21*—“...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.”

And because that is the case, the HEART contaminates the whole life and character just as Jesus said in *Matthew 12:34-35*—34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 15:18-19—“18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man:...”

So, the HEART must be changed before a man can willingly obey God! It must be regenerated or born again by faith! The process of salvation begins in the heart by the reception and believing of the testimony of God, while the rejection and unbelief of that testimony hardens the HEART!

What are some evidences of a hardness of HEART?

When one has a light view of sin, especially one's own personal sin; Either only a partial acknowledgment and confession of sin or no acknowledgment or confession at all of sin.

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Pride and conceit;
Ingratitude;
Unconcern about God's Word and what He has to say about things.
The stifling of the convictions from one's own conscience;
The shunning of reproof;
Presumption, and
General ignorance (on purpose) of divine things.

In an earlier study when we dealt with the mostly good king ASA, we saw that near the end of his life he began to depend on himself and others rather than the LORD. The LORD sent a Prophet to him telling him these words: 2 Chronicles 16:9–“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.”

Conclusion

So, not all **HEARTS** are **PERFECT** towards the **LORD**. Far from it in fact! The only **HEARTS** that have a possibility of being **PERFECT** toward Him are **HEARTS** that have been **CHANGED** by Him!

The person whose **HEART** is still in its unregenerate **NATURAL** state **CANNOT** have a **PERFECT HEART!**

Those with a **PERFECT HEART** toward the **LORD** are not common, but they are very precious in His sight!

The **LORD** delights in them and shows Himself strong on their behalf!
Let's seek to guard our heart and keep our heart **PERFECT** toward Him!

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”