

Introduction:

1. We are Introduced to his Person. Vs 1a

"Amaziah"

In our text we are introduced to a man named Amaziah.

Amaziah- Jehovah is mighty.

He is the son of King Joash that we can read and learn about in II Chronicles 24

Joash became king at the age of 7 years old. II Chron 24:1-3

He repaired the Temple. II Chron 24:4-14

He left God's house after the death of Jehoiada the Priest. II Chron 24:15-22

He suffered defeat at the hands of Syria. II Chron 24:23-24

He was assassinated. II Chron 24:25

After his assassination, his son took the throne as King in Judah.

2. We are Informed of his Period. Vs 1b

"was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem."

He began to reign in Judah (the spilt off of Israel) when he was at the age of 25 and he reigned for the next 29 years.

3. We are Interested in his Practice. Vs 2a

"And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD"

The word "right" in this text means: Correct, pleasing, upright.

This should be the desire of every believer, to do what is right!

If we are going to do what is right, then we must identify what is wrong and do the opposite.

It is always right, to do what is right!

4. We Identify his Problem. Vs 2b

"but not with a perfect heart."

The word "Perfect" within this context means "Complete or Whole"

He was fulfilling his duty, but that was not his desire.

He was only doing what was right because he knew that was expected of him, and he knew how to do right.

Application: I know many people in Church that do the right things.

- Read the Bible
- Pray
- Attend Church faithfully
- Tithe
- Give to missions

They do all the right things, but they do them for the wrong reasons!

- They do them because they know that it is expected of them
- They do them because they know if they do not do them, then they will be criticized.
- They do them out of duty.

Duty is a good thing, but Duty should not be the only thing that causes you to want to do what is right.

We notice that Amaziah did what was “Right in the sight of the LORD” but his heart was not “on board”.

God does not want you to serve him because you “have” to but rather because you “want to!

End of Introduction:

I. The Description of Amaziah.

1. His Avenging. Vs 3-4

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

We find Amaziah dealing with those who rose up and killed his father in these verses.

Now what I want to notice is in Vs 4, he did not kill the children of the men who slew his Father, and that was the **“Right”** thing to do according to the law of Moses.

We find him obeying the Word of God in this verse.

2. His Army. Vs 5-6

“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 hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.”

In these verses we find Amaziah putting a military force together for the purpose of battling the Edomites who were the enemies of the people of God.

3. His Attentiveness. Vs 7-10

“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. 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 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. 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.”

In these verses we find that Amaziah had hired a hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel to help fight against the Edomites.

But the LORD sent a Preacher and warned him not to take these men into battle with him because the LORD was not with Israel at that time.

The Preacher warned that if he took these men with him that they would fall before their enemies.

Amaziah questions this because he had already paid these men to fight and the man of God replied in Vs 9 with a great truth!

“The Lord is able to give thee much more than this.”

If you will give your all to God with a sincere heart and a sincere desire to serve the LORD he will bless you in ways that you could have never accomplished yourself!

Amaziah obeyed the message and sent these men home!

He gave attention to the Preacher and the message from God!

4. His Accomplishment. Vs 11-12

“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. 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.”

God gave them the victory over their enemies!

II. The Downfall of Amaziah.

1. His Idolatry. Vs 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.”

As we study the life of Amaziah we notice that he had a great problem with Idols in his life!

II Kings 14:3-4 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did. 4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

Please note: While he was doing “right in the sight of the LORD” he was still allowing idolatry to be a part of his life!

This is why he did not serve the LORD with a perfect (complete, whole) heart!

2. His Insolence. Vs 15-16a

“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? 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?”

We see his pride beginning to show in our text.

Before when he was giving a message from the man of God, he was attentive and received the message, but now he is full of pride and arrogance and he is rejecting both the message and the messenger.

In Vs 16 we even find him threatening the man of God.

3. His Indictment. Vs 16b

“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 man of God gives a solemn warning a message to Amaziah.

He informs him that because of his rejection of the message and the messenger that God is going to destroy him!

4. His Independence. Vs 17-20

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

Vs 17- Amaziah decides that he wants to meet King Joash of Israel face to face and work out their differences.

Vs 18- Joash warns Amaziah that this would not be wise because Amaziah was lifted up in pride because of a recent victory.

Vs 19- Joash warns that Amaziah and Judah would be defeated if they came against Israel.

Vs 20- Amaziah would not listen.

Point: He got to a point in his life where no one was going to tell him what to do.

He was his own man, and he was going to do as he pleased!

III. The Death of Amaziah.

1. The Conquering. Vs 21-22

“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 put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent.”

In these verses we learn that he should have listened to Joash and not came against Israel, because Judah suffered a great defeat.

Point: When you are following after your own heart and doing what you want to do it will always lead to defeat!

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

2. The Captivity. Vs 23-24

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

Because of Amaziah's pride and the wicked desires of his heart, he caused his nation to become hostages to Israel!

Point: The decisions that you make, will have an effect on others somewhere down the road!

3. The Confiscation. Vs 24

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

There were things that were lost down at the house of God because One man did not follow the LORD with his whole heart!

4. The Conspiracy. Vs 25-28

“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, first and last, behold, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel? 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. And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.”

Just as his father died, Amaziah was conspired against and killed because of what he had done to Judah in his pride and rebellion.

5. The Cost.

II Chronicles 26:1-4

Uzziah walked in the same path that his Father Amaziah did, and things ended badly for Uzziah as well!

Conclusion:

Amaziah knew what was right, and he did what was right. But yet sadly it was never in his heart to do right!

Amaziah lacked:

- 1. A Spiritual Desire.**
- 2. A Serious Dedication.**
- 3. A Sincere Devotion.**

There is more to Christianity that rules and laws (and by the way rules and laws are good things for our protection).

We should never read the Bible because we have to!

We should never pray because we “have to”

We should never go to church because we “have to”

But rather we should seek the LORD with our whole heart!

1 Kings 8:61

Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

1 Chronicles 28:9

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Psalms 101:2

I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (context of King Asa)

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. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Psalms 42:1-2

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 63:1-2

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.