

2 Kings Lesson 14

2 Kings Chapter 14

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Memory verses for this week: *Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Introduction: In chapter 13, we studied about the history of King Jehoahaz as he reigned over Israel followed by the reign of his son Jehoahaz.

The focus of chapter 14 shifts back to Judah and the reign of Amaziah along with his war with Jehoash of the northern kingdom. The end of the chapter then shifts back to the northern kingdom and the reign of Jeroboam II over Israel.

I. The Reign of Amaziah over Judah.

2Ki 14:1 In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.

2Ki 14:2 He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

After spending last week on the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel, this book now shifts its focus to the southern kingdom of Judah. At the age of 25, Amaziah ascended the throne of Judah and was king until he was fifty four. His mother's name is noted here as Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. She isn't mentioned further.

2Ki 14:3 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.

2Ki 14:4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

To this king's credit, he basically did right before the Lord, though not to the degree of David his ancestor. To his demerit, Amaziah allowed the high places to remain in Judah contrary to the Law of Moses. This was a common error among so many of the kings of both the southern and northern kingdoms. The common people offered sacrifices and burned incense thereon rather than at the Temple as prescribed.

2Ki 12:2 And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

2Ki 12:3 But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Of further interest is the word translated right (rvy yasshar). It is not the word used for righteous as a principle (qydu tzaddiq), but rather conveys the idea of doing right in practice. Amaziah did right practically, but righteousness evidently was not the governing principle of his life. The chronicle of him in II Chronicles 25:2, says that "he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart."

2Ki 14:5 And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.

2Ki 14:6 But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

2Ki 14:7 He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.

Adam Clarke in his commentary spoke of Amaziah's regard to the law of Moses.

But the children of the murderers he slew not - Here he showed his conscientious regard for the law of Moses; for God had positively said, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin, [Deu 24:16](#).

Amaziah sought vengeance against his enemies. His father, Joash (king of Judah), had killed Zechariah for preaching against his sin (II Chronicles 24:20-22).

2Ch 24:20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

2Ch 24:21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.

2Ch 24:22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.

Joash in due season was murdered by his own servants in retaliation (II Chronicles 24:25-27).

2Ch 24:25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.

2Ch 24:26 And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess.

2Ch 24:27 Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they are written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Upon establishing himself as king, Amaziah in turn killed those who had murdered his father. This may have been through a court of law, but illustrated is the vicious cycle of retaliation. Quoted here in verse 22 is based on Deuteronomy 24:16.

Deu 24:16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

To his credit, Amaziah sought to observe God's Word in dealing with the guilty and their families. Further record is made of the accomplishments of Amaziah.

"He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day".

The valley of salt likely is the southern end of the Dead Sea. There are salt deposits there to this day. He there defeated Edom which adjoins that area and killed ten thousand soldiers. The place noted as Selah is thought to have been an ancient name for Petra of Petraia. Further details of this campaign are found in II Chronicles 25:5-16.

2Ch 25:5 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.

2Ch 25:6 He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

2Ch 25:7 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.

2Ch 25:8 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.

2Ch 25:9 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.

2Ch 25:10 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.

2Ch 25:11 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.

2Ch 25:12 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.

2Ch 25:13 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.

2Ch 25:14 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.
2Ch 25:15 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?
2Ch 25:16 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 shouldst 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.

II. War Between Israel and Judah

2Ki 14:8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in the face.
2Ki 14:9 And Jehoash the 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.
2Ki 14:10 Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory of this, and tarry at home: for why shouldst thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldst fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?

In his campaign against Edom, Amaziah had hired 100,000 soldiers from Israel to assist him. However, because he bungled that arrangement, he provoked animosity with the northern kingdom. Puffed up from victory to the south, Amaziah brashly sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face". In so many words, Amaziah challenged Jehoash of Israel to war.

In verse 9, Jehoash replied with a sardonic parable.

"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 likened Amaziah to an annoying thistle plant which would eventually be crushed by a passing animal. Lest, Amaziah should miss the point, Jehoash, made it clear to him.

"Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory of this, and tarry at home: for why shouldst thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldst fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?"

Jehoash reminded Amaziah that he was lifted up with pride from his victory over Edom and the fact that he would be better off at home victorious rather to pick a fight with his much larger neighbor to the north.

2Ki 14:11 But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah.

2Ki 14:12 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents.

2Ki 14:13 And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Bethshemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

2Ki 14:14 And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

Foolishly, Amaziah would not listen to the advice of Jehoash. Jehoash, the king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Bethshemesh, which belonged to Judah. Bethshemesh was the place whence the stolen Ark of the Covenant was returned after its stay in Philistia. See I Samuel 6:9-12.

1Sa 6:9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.

1Sa 6:10 And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:

1Sa 6:11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.

1Sa 6:12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.

As noted in verse 12, the northern kingdom defeated Judah. Moreover, Jehoash destroyed a significant portion of the wall of Jerusalem and then looted the Temple. The record in II Chronicles 25:14-15 notes how that Amaziah bowed to the idols of Edom thus incurring the wrath of God against him. The narrative there makes it clear this is why God allowed Amaziah to be so miserably defeated.

2Ki 14:15 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

2Ki 14:16 And Jehoash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son reigned in his stead.

The narrative briefly shifts to the northern kingdom again. Jehoash dies and is buried in Samaria. Jeroboam succeeds Jehoash. This parallels the record made in II Kings 13:12-13.

2Ki 13:12 And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might wherewith he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

2Ki 13:13 And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

2Ki 14:17 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

2Ki 14:18 And the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2Ki 14:19 Now they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem: and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there.

2Ki 14:20 And they brought him on horses: and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

The record now shifts back again briefly to the southern kingdom, Judah. Amaziah had begun his reign by killing those who killed his father. It seems that it eventually came back upon him. The record in II Chronicles 25:27 indicates that the demise of Amaziah was connected to his turning away from following the Lord. Lachish was an ancient fortified city south and west of Jerusalem. Though fleeing for his life, Amaziah came to his end there.

2Ki 14:21 And all the people of Judah took Azariah, which was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

2Ki 14:22 He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

The people of Judah took Azariah and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. He was only 16 years old. As is the case in of other kings in II Kings, the reign of the next king is briefly summarized and then the focus turns to the other kingdom. That is the case here. Azariah is also called Uzziah in the next chapter as well as in II Chronicles 26. Elath was the port city at the tip of the north-east arm of the Red Sea. It today is known at Elat.

2Ki 14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years.

2Ki 14:24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

2Ki 14:25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

In verse 23, The focus shifts back to the northern kingdom, Israel. As noted in 14:15-16, Jeroboam II succeeded his father upon the throne. However, he was like his pre-decessors in continuing in the sins of Jeroboam—the golden calves in Dan and Bethel. More details of Jeroboam II's reign are noted in verse 25.

Hamath was at the northern border of Israel. The sea of the plain is another name for the Dead Sea into which flows the Jordan River. The greater thought is that Jeroboam II was an able ruler restoring much territory to Israel. Of special interest is the mention of Jonah the prophet. The specific prophecy is not noted here or in the book bearing his name. However, this is the first place in the Bible that Jonah is mentioned. In fact, this is the first mention of any of the later writing prophets (Samuel excluded).

Matthew Henry in his Commentary said this about Jeroboam II.

Here is an account of the reign of Jeroboam the second. I doubt it is an indication of the affection and adherence of the house of Jehu to the sins of *Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin*, that they called an heir-apparent to the crown by his name, thinking that an honourable name which in the book of God is infamous and stigmatized as much as any.

I. His reign was long, the longest of all the reigns of the kings of Israel: *He reigned forty-one years*; yet his contemporary Azariah, the king of Judah, reigned longer, even fifty-two years. This Jeroboam reigned just as long as Asa had done (1Ki 15:10), yet one did that which was good and the other that which was evil. We cannot measure men's characters by the length of their lives or by their outward prosperity. *There is one event to the righteous and to the wicked.*

2Ki 14:26 For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.

2Ki 14:27 And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

The tender mercies of God toward his people are again unveiled. Because of their backslidden condition, God had allowed the Syrians to chasten Israel. Notwithstanding, God in his mercy and compassion was gracious to His people.

Though Jeroboam was not a godly man, it is implied that the rest of the nation did not share his evil heart. God allowed even a king such as Jeroboam II to deliver his people from the oppression they suffered. Though God had chastened them, his tender mercy still remained. Moreover, God kept His Word. He had repeatedly promised the patriarchs of Israel that He would fulfill His covenant to them in preserving the nation of Israel in perpetuity. Men may lie to us, but God keeps His Word.

2Ki 14:28 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, which belonged to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

2Ki 14:29 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel; and Zachariah his son reigned in his stead.

These last two verses summarize the reign of Jeroboam II. During the reign of Jeroboam II, even Damascus was made subject to Israel even as it had been in

the time of David. After his death, the son of Jeroboam II, Zachariah ascended the throne of Israel.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.