

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 59 Amaziah Begins His Reign Through Fear Without Obedience – (II Kings 14-17)

1. As you begin reading about Amaziah, do things look better for Judah?
 - Since he followed in the ways of Joash his father (**II Kings 14:3**), that is has us lean towards a “no” to this question (**II Kings 12:18-21** and **II Chronicles 24:20-23**).
 - However, he starts out doing that which is pleasing to the Lord: *“In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah. 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. 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. Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places”* (**II Kings 14:1-4**).
 - He did right, but not all things right for his heart was not right (**II Chronicles 25:1-2**).
2. What did Amaziah do as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand?
 - *“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”* (**II Kings 14:5**).
3. Why didn't Amaziah kill the children of the murderers of his father?
 - *“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”* (**II Kings 14:6**; cf. **Deuteronomy 24:16** and **Ezekiel 18:20**).
4. What was Amaziah able to do against Edom?
 - *“He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah [a place in Edom; word means “the rock” (BDB Hebrew Lexicon)] by war, and called the name of it Joktheel [“the blessedness of God”(BDB Hebrews Lexicon)] unto this day”* (**II Kings 14:7**).
5. What challenge did Amaziah king in Judah make to Jehoash king of Israel?
 - A face to face meeting (**II Kings 14:8**).
6. What happens as a result of Amaziah's challenge to Jehoash?
 - Jehoash warned Amaziah that his recent victory over Edom has gotten to his head a bit too much. He warns him that Judah would fall if Amaziah did not basically humble himself a bit (**II Kings 14:9-10**).
 - Amaziah doesn't listen and then... *“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. And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents. 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. 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. 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” (II Kings 14:11-15)?

7. How did Amaziah die?

- *“And the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 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. And they brought him on horses: and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David. And all the people of Judah took Azariah, which was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah” (II Kings 14:18-21).*

8. Was Jeroboam, the son of Joash king of Israel, a godly king?

- He did some things to help Israel, but he was not godly: *“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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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” (II Kings 14:23-28)?*

9. How good of a king was Azariah who was the son of Amaziah king of Judah?

- *“In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign. Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jeholiah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done; **Save that the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places.** And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son was over the house, judging the people of the land” (II Kings 15:1-5).*
- He did like Asa in not removing the high places (**I Kings 15:14**). We shall see this again later as well, even in our current context.

10. Was Zachariah a good king in Israel?

- No: *“In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months. And he did that which was evil in the*

sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin” (II Kings 15:8-9).

11. How did Zachariah’s reign come to an end?

- “And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead” (II Kings 15:10).
- We’ve seen kings murdered through conspiracy [a secret agreement or plan] time and time again:
 - Baasha against Nadab in Israel (I Kings 15:25-27).
 - Zimri against Elah in Israel (I Kings 16:8-10).
 - Joash was conspired against in Judah and slain by his servants (II Kings 12:19-20).
 - We just talked about Amaziah (II Kings 14:18-20).
 - We will see another conspiracy very soon... verses 23-25.
 - As we study further in II Kings, we will see it again (i.e. 21:23).
- Absalom’s conspiracy against David was not fatal to David (II Samuel 15:12), but did work until Absalom was killed against David’s will (II Samuel 18).
- Let’s be sure to never do things in a hidden way (II Corinthians 4:1-2).

12. Explain II Kings 15:12.

- God promised Jehu that his sons should sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation. Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam, and Zachariah, succeeded Jehu. God’s promise is now fulfilled: “And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel” (II Kings 10:30).
- See also: Hosea 1:4

13. How did Menahem become the king in Israel?

- “Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thirtieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria. For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead” (II Kings 15:13-14).
- Take time to think about the mess Israel has become (Proverbs 13:2).

14. What kind of things did Menahem do in his time of power?

- “Then Menahem smote Tiphseh, and all that were therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah: because they opened not to him, therefore he smote it; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up. In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand. And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of

silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land” (II Kings 15:16-20).

15. Did Menahem’s son Pekahiah bring a refreshing change to the throne in Israel?

- NOPE, more of the same: *“In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin” (II Kings 15:23-24).*

16. How did Pekahiah’s reign come to an end?

- *“But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room” (II Kings 15:25).*

17. Did change come about when Pekah took the throne in Israel?

- No: *“In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria” (II Kings 15:27-29)?*

18. How did Hoshea become king in Israel?

- *“And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah” (II Kings 15:30).*

19. What failure did Jotham, the son of Uzziah, have in Judah?

- *“In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah [A.K.A. Azariah; II Kings 15:7] king of Judah to reign. Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. **Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD” (II Kings 15:32-35).***
- Jotham was mighty and did more we’ll read of later (II Chronicles 27:1-9).
- Uzziah built engines [war machine], fought battles, etc., but died of leprosy (II Chronicles 26).

20. During the days when Jotham’s life ends and Ahaz begins to reign, what did the Lord begin to do?

- *“In those days the LORD began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah. And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead” (II Kings 15:37-38).*

21. Did Ahaz do right in the sight of God?

- No: *“Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father” (II Kings 16:2).*

22. What does II Kings 16:3 show you about Ahaz?

- The verse reads: *“But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel” (II Kings 16:3).*
 - He did not follow the good (at least somewhat good) of his father and grandfather (Jotham and Uzziah [Azariah]).
 - He followed the erring ways of Jeroboam, which the kings of Israel continued in (cf. **Proverbs 19:27** and **III John 11**).
 - His sons passed through fire (a burnt sacrifice of your child), which means he worshipped Molech (**Leviticus 18:21** and **Jeremiah 32:35**).

23. What could have been done to prevent the errors we read about in II Kings 16:4?

- The high places should have been destroyed in Judah:
 - Asa did good, but failed to (**I Kings 15:14**).
 - Jehoshaphat did good, but failed to (**I Kings 22:43**).
 - Jehoash did good, but failed to (**II Kings 12:2-3**).
 - Amaziah did good, but failed to (**II Kings 14:1-4**).
 - Azariah, his grandfather, did good but failed in this regard (**II Kings 15:1-4**).
 - Jotham, his father, did good but failed here as well (**II Kings 15:32-35**).
 - We will not see change in this problem until Hezekiah (**II Kings 18:1-4**).
- They should have never been built under Rehoboam (**I Kings 14:21-23**).

24. What happened when Rezin, king of Syria, came to war against Jerusalem?

- *“Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day. So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me. And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin” (II Kings 16:5-9).*
- Notice, there is not a turning to God here!

25. What did Ahaz see and want when he went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria?

- He saw an altar and wanted one made like it for himself: *“And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the*

pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof. And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made it against king Ahaz came from Damascus. And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon. And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar. And he brought also the brasen altar, which was before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar. And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire by. Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded. And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brasen oxen that were under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones. And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria" (II Kings 16:10-18).

26. Was Hoshea, the son of Elah, as bad as the kings before him in Israel?
- NO: "In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him" (II Kings 17:1-2).
27. What stupid thing did Hoshea do against the king of Assyria?
- "Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years" (II Kings 17:3-5).
28. How do we know that God was behind Israel going into Assyrian captivity?
- He said so (II Kings 17:6-23; cf. Isaiah 10:5-13 and Jeremiah 50:17). He warned them, but they would not listen (II Kings 17:13).
29. What happened when the king of Assyria allowed strangers to dwell in the cities of Samaria?
- "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof. And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them. Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land. Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry

thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD” (II Kings 17:24-28).

30. Did the fear of the nations which dwelt in Israel turn their hearts from idolatry?
- NO (II Kings 17:29-40).