

7/24/11

Amaziah, Judah's Meddler
2Kings 14:1-22

The prophet Elijah was used by God to warn the northern Kingdom about the judgment of God, until God took him to heaven in a whirlwind.

1. Elisha replaced Elijah in order to develop and oversee the schools of the prophets, continue to speak to idolatrous Israel and to fulfill the judgment of God to the northern Kingdom.
2. There have been some unnamed prophets also used by God and Shemiah and Micaiah, Obediah was probably a contemporary with Elijah and Joel with Elisha, but now Elisha has just died, due to some illness.
3. The prophet Jonah fits in this period, Amos and Hosea and Isaiah will begin his ministry, at the death of Uzziah. 2Kings 14:25

There have been five bad kings in Judah and 12 in Israel, four good ones in Judah and none in Israel.

We want to look at the 9th King of Judah, Amaziah, who is considered to be a good king, but only in comparison to the bad Kings.

Amaziah is presented to us through a three-fold lens: 2Kings 14:1-22

- I. Amaziah was a contradiction to himself. vs. 1-7
 - II. Amaziah was a presumptuous person. vs. 8-14
 - III. Amaziah was judged by God, for turning from God. vs. 15-22
- I. Amaziah was a contradiction to himself. vs. 1-7**
- A. The King of Judah was of the royal line of David, revealing his right to the throne. vs. 1-4
 1. The date of Amaziah's ascension to the throne is given. vs. 1
 - a. The date is correlated with the reign of the king of Israel, "In the second year of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, became king."
 - b. Keep clear the name of the king and the particular kingdom, Judah or Israel.
 - c. Remember both kingdoms had kings be the same name at the same time, the 5th king of Judah, Jehoram and the 9th king of Israel, Joram, during the years 848-841 B.C., one is the long form the other the short form,
 - d. Joash the 8th King of Judah and Jehoash the 11th King of Israel had the same names during the year 798-

796 B.C. again one is the short form and the other the long form.

2. The specifics of his reign are also given. vs. 2
 - a. His age, “He was twenty-five years old when he became king.” vs. 2a
 - b. His length of reign, “and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem”, 796-767 B.C. vs. 2b
 - c. His mother, “His mother’s name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.” vs. 2c
3. The commentary on his reign is stated. vs. 3-4
 - a. He, like all other kings failed the standard of David, “And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David.” vs. 3a-b
 - b. He is compared to his father in his reign, not because he was pre-determined by his upbringing or home, but rather by his own will and choice in life, “he did everything as his father Joash had done.” vs. 3c
 - 1) His father started good, being saved from Athaliah, restored the house of the Lord, but turn to idols after the death of Jehoiada the priest.
 - 2) He killed the priest Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada for rebuking him for his idolatry.

3) He was assassinated by his servants.

* 2Kings. 12:12, 2Chron. 24

- c. He allowed the confusion about the worship of Yahweh to remain in the land, “However the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.” vs. 4
 - 1) These had existed since the days of Solomon. 1Kings 3:2
 - 2) 15 times they are mentioned, from the text of Solomon to this one.
 - 3) These high places became identified with the worship of Judah by the Assyrians and since Hezekiah removed them, they told the people to not to let Hezekiah deceive them to trust in the Lord. 2Kings 18
- B.** The King of Judah obeyed the law, revealing he was merciful. vs. 5-6
1. He administered justice against those assassinated his father, “Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.” vs. 5

- a. Their names are Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer. 2Kings 12:20-21
 - b. The law declared that the person who murdered someone would be put to death. Ex. 21:12
 - c. No ransom was to be taken for the person who fled to a city of refuge if he was guilty of murder, he was to be put to death or it would defile the land. Num. 35:32-33
2. He did not hold the children responsible for the sins of their fathers. vs. 6
- a. They stand in sharp contrast their fathers, “But the children of the murderers he did not execute.” vs. 6a
 - b. The king had a copy of the law in order to rule righteously, “according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses.” vs. 6b
 - c. The order was from God, “in which the LORD commanded, saying, “Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall be put to death for his own sin.” vs. 6c-g
 - 1) The Law is found in the book of Deuteronomy. Deut. 24:16
 - 2) The prophet Ezekiel points this out to reveal the justice of God, each

- person is responsible for their own sin. Ezk. 18:4, 20
 - 3) The parallel passage to these six verses is found in Chronicles. 2Chron. 25:1-4
- C. The King of Judah compromised the word of God, revealing he was foolish. vs. 7
1. Amaziah waged war against Edom. vs. 7
- a. He killed a great number of the enemy, “He killed ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.” vs. 7a
 - 1) The Valley of Salt is the Dead Sea.
 - 2) The area is the lowest place in the earth, the closest place to hell, from the surface of the earth.
 - b. He captured the Edomite city, “and took Sela by war.” vs. 7b
 - 1) The Edomites were the descendants of Esau.
 - 2) Esau was the brother of Jacob or Israel, Sela is Petra.
 - c. He renamed the city, “and called its name Joktheel “the blessedness of God”, to this day.” vs. 7c
2. The parallel passage in the book of Chronicles provides supplemental information. 2Chron. 25:5-13
- a. He raised an army from the southern Kingdom, Judah, “Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together and set over

them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, according to their fathers' houses, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, able to go to war, who could handle spear and shield." vs. 5

- b.** He then hired mercenaries from the northern Kingdom, Israel, "He also hired one hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for one hundred talents of silver." vs. 6
- c.** Amaziah was warned by a prophet against his unequally yoked partnership with Israel, "But a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel--not with any of the children of Ephraim." vs. 7
- d.** The prophet told Amaziah God would defeat him, if he disobeyed, "But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow." vs. 8
- e.** Amaziah protested to the prophet about the money he had given the mercenaries, "Then Amaziah said to

the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" vs. 9a-b

- f.** The prophet reminded Amaziah about what he had forgotten, "And the man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this." vs. 9c
- g.** Amaziah obey the warning of the prophet of God, offending the men of Israel, "So Amaziah discharged the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go back home. Therefore their anger was greatly aroused against Judah, and they returned home in great anger." vs. 10
- h.** Amaziah then proceeded to attack Edom with the army of Judah alone, "Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed ten thousand of the people of Seir." vs. 11
- i.** The details of how Amaziah kill the ten thousand is stated, "Also the children of Judah took captive ten thousand alive, brought them to the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were dashed in pieces." vs. 12

- j. The mercenary army on their way home took out their hostility on the people of Judah, “But as for the soldiers of the army which Amaziah had discharged, so that they would not go with him to battle, they raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon, killed three thousand in them, and took much spoil.” vs. 13
- 3. The parallel passage of Chronicles records the grievous sin of Amaziah against God, even though God gave him the victory over Edom. 2Chron. 25:14-16
 - a. Amaziah transported the gods of Edom and worshipped them, “Now it was so, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them.” vs. 14
 - b. Amaziah was rebuked by God through a prophet, “Therefore the anger of the LORD was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, “Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?” vs. 15
 - c. Amaziah attempted to intimidate the prophet, “So it was, as he talked with

him, that the king said to him, “Have we made you the king’s counselor? Cease! Why should you be killed?” vs. 16a-f

- d. Amaziah did not intimidate the prophet and heard the man of God pronounce judgment over him, “Then the prophet ceased, and said, “I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice.” vs. 16g-j

Illustration

The boat belongs in the water, it is when the water gets in the boat, that the boat gets in trouble!

Application

1. There are Christians that will express their love for God and they are passionate about the word and bringing others to Christ, but are a contradiction to the faith and the word of God.
 - a. Yet they are still fornicating.
 - b. Some are still drinking and getting drunk.
 - c. Still others get loaded and still and take drugs.
 - d. Some still are like Samson, always attracted to unbelievers, being unequally yoked.
 - e. Still others are enjoying the worldly night-life and see not problem with it.
- * “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has

righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." 2Cor. 6:14-18

2. There are others in the church who are a contradiction to the word of God.
 - a. Some say they believe God's word, but attempt to integrate Psychology to the Scriptures, believing there is no contradiction.
 - * "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2Tim. 3:16-17
 - b. Others say they believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, but they are attempting to change their behavior through the principles

of "behavioral modification", rather than transformation by the word and the Spirit of God.

- 1) "Not that we are **sufficient** of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us **sufficient** as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." 2Cor. 3:5-6
- 2) "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." Col. 2:8-10
3. There are people who come to Christ, having come out of the world or religions and they go back or turn away from Jesus to a lie and never repent.
 - a. Some go back to the Catholic Church, after being born again.
 - b. Others go back into the world.
 - c. Still others get sucked in to some cult with some twisted view of the Scriptures*
 - * "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers

of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”
Heb. 6:4-6

Amaziah was a contradiction to himself!

II. Amaziah was a presumptuous person. vs. 8-14

- A.** The King of Judah was filled with pride, after his victory over Edom and called the King of Israel out to war. vs. 8
* 2Chron. 25:17-24
- 1.** Amaziah challenged Jehoash to confront him in battle. vs. 8
 - a.** He sent an envoy directly to the King, “Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel.” vs. 8a-c
 - 1)** The number of men is not disclosed, but the word in the plural indicates more than one.
 - 2)** Jehu remember was the Grandfather of Jehoash , who was anointed by one of the sons of the prophets to be king of Israel by the command of Elisha to bring

judgment on the house of Ahab.
2Kings 9:1-10

- b.** He expressed his arrogance, “saying, “Come, let us face one another in battle.” vs. 8d-f
 - 1)** Amaziah allowed the victory God gave him to believe it was due to his own ability.
 - 2)** Or he became presumptuous in thinking he could do what he wanted and God would honor it, in other words, back him up!
- 2.** Jehoash responded to Amaziah in a way that belittled him. vs. 9
 - a.** The King of Israel warned Amaziah that he was not match for him, “And Jehoash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon.” vs. 9a-c
 - b.** The King of Israel told Amaziah his presumptuous words would be his down-fall, “saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son as wife’; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.” vs. 9d-f
* Similar parables. Judges 9:7-15, 2Chron. 25:18, Zech. 11:7-14
- B.** The King of Israel attempted to dissuade the King of Judah, but to no avail. vs. 10-14

1. Jehoash admonished Amaziah to not be foolish. vs. 10
 - a. He acknowledged Amaziah's victory over Edom, "You have indeed defeated Edom. vs. 10a
 - b. He rebuked Amaziah, "and your heart has lifted you up." vs. 10b
 - c. He allowed Amaziah his bragging rights, "Glory in that." vs. 10c
 - d. He warned Amaziah to not bring calamity on himself and the people, "and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall--you and Judah with you?" vs. 10d-f
2. Amaziah being full of himself, acted like the fool he was all along. vs. 11
 - a. He could not be turned, "But Amaziah would not heed." vs. 11a
 - b. He was confronted by Jehoash in his own land, "Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went out; so he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah." vs. 11b-d
 - 1) The king of Israel initiated the battle, he went out towards Judah.
 - 2) The battle ground was at Beth Shemesh, "Beyth Shemesh", meaning "house of the sun".

- 3) Beth Shemesh was the town the ark was returned on the cart by the Philistines. 1Sam. 6:12-13
3. Amaziah was humbled by Jehoash, the King of Israel. vs. 12-14
 - a. Judah's army was put to flight, "And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent." vs. 12
 - b. Amaziah was captured in battle, "Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth Shemesh." vs. 13a-c
 - c. Jehoash marched to Jerusalem and broke down the defenses of the city, "and he went to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate--four hundred cubits." vs. 13d-e
 - d. Jehoash helped himself to the spoils of war at Jerusalem. vs. 14
 - 1) He looted the Temple, "And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of the LORD." vs. 14a
 - 2) He looted Amaziah's house, "and in the treasuries of the king's house." vs. 14a
 - 3) He took members of the royal family, "and hostages." vs. 14b

- 4) He went back to the capital of the northern Kingdom, “and returned to Samaria.” vs. 14

Illustration

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Dan. 3:16-18

* Daniel’s three friends told Nebuchadnezzar, if we don’t bow we can not burn, but if we do bow, we will burn!

Application

1. Pride is so destructive.

* “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.” Prov. 6:16-19

2. There are so many people who are warned, admonished, yet they do not pay heed.

- a. They go head-first into sin.
- b. They leave their mates and children.

- c. They take a chance and lose everything, due to greed.
3. There are so many believer who by catering to their flesh give up the most precious things.
- a. Their defenses are weakened, to resist and fight for victory.
 - b. Their husbands, wives and children are looted from the spiritual benefits and wealth in Christ.
- * “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Gal. 6:7-9

Amaziah was presumptuous person!

III. Amaziah was judged by God, for turning from God. vs. 15-22

- A. The death of Jehoash, the King of Israel is recorded, as a contemporary with Amaziah the king of Judah. vs. 15-16
1. The northern Kingdom had all bad kings. vs. 15
 - a. The nation was divided, “Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did--

his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah.” vs. 15a-b

- b.** The supplementary material we do not possess, “--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?” vs. 15c

* We have only the Chronicles of the kings of Judah.

- 2.** The northern Kingdom continues in its evil with another bad King. vs. 16
- a.** The 12th king of Israel died, “So Jehoash rested with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.” vs. 16a-b
- b.** The son of Jehoash, the next bad king took his throne, “Then Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.” vs. 16c

B. The death of Amaziah, the King of Judah is recorded. vs. 17-22

- 1.** Amaziah outlived Jehoash, “Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.” vs. 17
- 2.** The supplemental material, we do possess, “Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?” vs. 18
* The parallel. 2Chron. 25:25-26:2
- 3.** The compromising life-style of Amaziah caught up with him. vs. 19

- a.** It took place through normal means, “And they formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem.” vs. 19a
- b.** It could not be averted, “and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.” vs. 19b-c
- 1)** The death of Amaziah was directly related to his apostasy from God, “After the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.” 2Chron. 25:27
- 2)** The prophet said God was going to destroy him, Then the prophet ceased, and said, “I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice.”. 2Chron. 25:16h-i
- 4.** The burial of the 9th king of Judah, Amaziah. vs. 20-22
- a.** He was given a royal burial, “Then they brought him on horses, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David.” vs. 20
- b.** He was succeeded by his son Uzziah, a good king, “And all the people of

Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.” vs. 21

* God did not hold Uzziah guilty of the sins of his father!

- c. He was used by God to recover lost territory, “He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.” vs. 22

Illustration

Saul did not pay heed to repeated warning, listen to his own appraisal of himself, “Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the **fool** and erred exceedingly.” 1Sam. 26:21

Application

1. The bible tells us that every person dies and life confirms that every day.

* “And as it is **appointed** for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Heb. 9:27

2. God gives us provision to stay right with Him and in fellowship, constantly.

* “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not **sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1Jn. 2:1

3. The principle of sowing and reaping is inescapable, if we turn away from God.

* “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” Heb. 10:23-31

Amaziah was judged by God for turning from God!

Conclusion

This is Amaziah through a three-fold lens:

- I. Amaziah was a contradiction to himself!
- II. Amaziah was a presumptuous person!

III. Amaziah was judged by God, for turning from God!