



King Amaziah – The Fall of Pride
2 Chronicles 25

Obedient to God's Word (25:1-3)

Amaziah's father, Joash, had been assassinated by Zabad and Jehozabad. When Amaziah became king, he executed them for their crime. Unlike Athaliah who tried to get vengeance and eliminate the royal family, Amaziah obeyed God's Word and didn't kill anyone else. In Deuteronomy 24:16 God said each person should pay for his own crimes and that children shouldn't be punished for their parents' crimes.

Weak Faith (25:4-13)

Amaziah obeyed God but not whole heartedly because of his pride. His heart was divided between God and himself. Amaziah had a census to count the number of men who could serve in the military. There were 300,000 men. If Amaziah had learned from history, he would have remembered that when kings and generals had faith in God, God fought for them, and they were victorious regardless of how many soldiers they had. But he didn't and so he didn't trust God fully. He had to be certain *he* would be victorious by hiring 100,000 mercenaries from Israel to increase his army. To Amaziah's credit when a prophet warned him not to use the mercenaries, Amaziah sent them home costing him the 7,500 pounds of silver he hired them with. Amaziah won the battle against the Seirites (Edomites) but at a great cost. Not only did he lose the silver, but the mercenaries were also enraged they were humiliated and missed out on the plunder. So, they attacked towns in Judah and killed 3,000 people and took a great deal of plunder. *Where in your life are you trying to take control and do it your way instead of trusting God?*

Sin – Idol Worship (25:14-16)

Then Amaziah did the unthinkable. He took the idols of the Seirites to Jerusalem and worshiped them! A prophet asked a very logical question. Why would Amaziah worship gods that couldn't protect their worshipers from Amaziah? Amaziah told the prophet to stop talking. So, the prophets last words to Amaziah were God would destroy him because he had not listened to the prophet's words. *Where in your life are you so prideful that you think you can get away with sin?*

Pride (25:17-28)

Full of pride because of his defeat of the Seirites, Amaziah challenged the King of Israel, Jehoash, to a war. Jehoash told Amaziah to know his place and not think so highly of himself. Amaziah wouldn't listen, and he and Jehoash met in battle. Amaziah's army was routed and fled in defeat and Amaziah was captured. Jehoash took Amaziah to Jerusalem so he could watch Jehoash's army destroy 200 yards of Jerusalem's city wall, take hostages and remove treasures from the temple and king's palace. At the end of his reign, Amaziah fled to the town of Lachish in exile where he was found and assassinated like his father before him. *Where in your life do you think you are bigger than God? Do you do what is right in the Lord's sight wholeheartedly?*