

## 2 Chronicles 25:1 – 28:27

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### III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

**Review:** Two weeks ago we focused on the great troubles that came to the southern kingdom from the marriage alliance between Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram and Ahab's daughter, Athaliah:

- Jehoram killed his brothers; then, when he died, his son Ahaziah did evil and reigned for only one year.
  - When Ahaziah died, his mother, Athaliah murdered all of her grandchildren – *except Joash*, who had been hidden, and begin to reign. When Joash was seven years old, he was made king and Athaliah was put to death.
  - Then Joash begin to reign; he served the LORD as long as Jehoiada the priest was alive, but, when Jehoiada died, Joash turned to false gods and even gave the order to stone Jehoiada's son, through whom the LORD was speaking to call him to repentance. Shortly thereafter, Joash was assassinated by his own servants.
- Z. **Amaziah Reigns in Judah (25:1-4):** He began to reign when he was 25 years old, he reigned 29 years, and he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart.
- AA. **Amaziah's Victories (25:5-13):** The LORD blessed him with <sup>5</sup> "300,000 choice men, fit for war, able to handle spear and shield." However, he also made a bad decision, which had serious consequences:
1. <sup>6</sup> He hired also 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 100 talents of silver.  
<sup>7</sup> But a man of God came to him and said, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel... <sup>8</sup> But go, act, be strong for the battle.... For God has power to help or to cast down."
    - a. Is it sometimes *difficult* to change a decision? Y N
    - b. Should we change *if what we decided is against the LORD*? Y N
  2. <sup>9</sup> And Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents that I have given to the army of Israel?" The man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this." <sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim to go home again.
    - a. Amaziah weighed the situation, received godly advice, and changed his mind.
    - b. Nevertheless, there were some serious consequences for having hired the 100,000 men in the first place:
      - i. <sup>10b</sup> ...they [*the hired men*] became very angry with Judah and returned home in fierce anger.
      - ii. <sup>13</sup> ...the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back...raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 people in them and took much spoil.

BB. **Amaziah's Idolatry (25:14-16):** *What foolishness! Let us learn and be wise!* <sup>14</sup> After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the LORD was angry with Amaziah and sent to him a prophet, who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of a people who did not deliver their own people from your hand?" <sup>16</sup> But as he was speaking, the king said to him, "Have we made you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?" So the prophet stopped, but said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

1. Fools reject the counsel, thus the Word, of the LORD.
2. Let us be wise by seeking, knowing, and following God's Word!

CC. **Israel Defeats Amaziah (25:17-28):** When Amaziah provoked the king of Israel, he responded: <sup>19</sup> "...stay at home." <sup>20</sup> But Amaziah would not listen, for it was of God, in order that he might give them [the king and the people of Judah] into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought the gods of Edom.

1. Even today false gods can lead to our harm, death, and eternal punishment.
2. What are some of today's false gods? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Some quotes about God:
  - a. "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." — Corrie ten Boom
  - b. "All God does is watch us and kill us when we get boring." — Chuck Palahniuk
  - c. "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." — C.S. Lewis
  - d. "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." — Søren Kierkegaard
  - e. "The darker the night, the brighter the stars, the deeper the grief, the closer is God!" — Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
  - f. "Owners of dogs will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think you are god. Whereas owners of cats are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they draw the conclusion that *they* are gods." — Christopher Hitchens
  - g. "Sometimes God allows what he hates to accomplish what he loves." — Joni Eareckson Tada, *The God I Love*

DD. **Uzziah Reigns in Judah (26:1-15):** He became king when he was 16 years old, he reigned for 52 years, and <sup>4</sup> ...he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD... <sup>5</sup> He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

EE. **Uzziah's Pride and Punishment (26:16-23):**

1. <sup>16</sup> But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction.
  - a. Pride is a very serious sin!
  - b. God will humble the proud: <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 5:5** ...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
2. <sup>16b</sup> ...he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. <sup>17</sup> But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, <sup>18</sup> and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests..."
  - a. When we are unfaithful, it is important to listen to godly counsel.
  - b. Did Uzziah listen? Y N
3. <sup>19</sup> ...when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead... <sup>20</sup> ...And they [*the priests*] rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him. <sup>21</sup> And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death...
4. His death and Isaiah's vision: <sup>ESV</sup> **Isaiah 6:1** In the year that King Uzziah died [740 BC] I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" [*Read the rest on your own!*]

FF. **Jotham Reigns in Judah (27:1-9):** He was 25 years old when he began to reign, he reigned 16 years, and he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> ...But the people still followed corrupt practices.... <sup>6</sup> ...Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before the LORD his God.

GG. **Ahaz Reigns in Judah (28:1-4):** He was 20 years old when he began to reign, he reigned 16 years, and he did NOT do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

1. <sup>2</sup> ...he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel.
2. <sup>2b</sup> He...made metal images for the Baals...
3. <sup>3</sup> ...he...burned his sons as an offering...

HH. **Judah Defeated (28:5-21):** <sup>5</sup> Therefore [because of what is noted above] the LORD his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria [Rezin], who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus [far north, about 40 miles NE of the Sea of Galilee]. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel [Pekah], who struck him with great force.

1. <sup>6</sup> ...Pekah...killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers.
2. <sup>8</sup> The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took much spoil from them and brought the spoil to Samaria. <sup>9</sup> But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded, and he went out to meet the army...and said to them, "Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. <sup>10</sup> And now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. Have you not sins of your own against the LORD your God? <sup>11</sup> Now hear me, and send back the captives from your relatives whom you have taken, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you."
  - a. Again, the LORD's guidance is always best!
  - b. Did they listen and follow the Word of the LORD? Y N
3. <sup>14</sup> So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly. <sup>15</sup> And the men...rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho...

II. **Ahaz's Idolatry (28:22-27):** <sup>22</sup> In the time of his distress he became yet more faithless to the LORD... <sup>23</sup> For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus that had defeated him and said, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria helped them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.

**This Week's Memory Verse:** <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 5:5** ...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

**Next Week:** We continue with 2 Chronicles 29:1 – God willing! *Please join us!*

**How to benefit the most?** Read the section we will be studying in advance!