

Amaziah, Jeroboam II

Notes for 6 Jun

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Read: [2 Kings 14](#), [2 Chronicles 25](#), and [Deuteronomy 24](#)

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

This chapter is a continuation of the history of Judah and Israel.

It effectively covers the reign of Amaziah, king of Judah from 796 BC until 767 BC. It covers most of the reign of Jehoash, king of Israel, from 796 BC until 782 BC. Jehoash's reign commenced in 798 BC. From 782 BC Jeroboam II reigned in Israel.

Amaziah is recorded as as doing "what was right in the eyes of the Lord". Well, almost! How hard it is to get rid of entrenched cultural habits!

God obviously cut Amaziah a bit of slack.

- Should we cut our church leaders a bit of slack, and follow God's example?

Jehoash did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He reigned 16 years.

Jeroboam II did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He reigned 41 years.

Why did God, who some class as a "genocidal maniac", put up with so much defiant behaviour, in particular, from the kings of Israel? You may want to reflect on how much suffering this evil rule was causing to the people of Israel. (See verse 26).

Back to Amaziah. After the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, he executed the officials who had murdered his father the king. Yet he did not put the sons of the assassins to death in accordance with what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses. (See Deut. 24;16).

When I read this, the implication is revolutionary. We are told very little in Kings about the policies that affected the ordinary people. We recognise that Kings is a brief summary of key events. Yet, if Kings is explicit in Judah following this part of the Mosaic law, I can implicitly suggest, with a high probability, that they may have followed much else in the Mosaic law.

Please read the whole of Deuteronomy 24, and much else in Deuteronomy if you have time, and you may conclude that Judaistic society had strong socialist elements.

- Discuss!

"Pride Comes Before A Fall."

Verses 9-14: Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine, Iran, all come to mind. We never learn from history!

- Why did God permit a "good" king to be defeated by an evil king, or did He just step aside?

Verses 17-20. These verses record the sad end of Amaziah.

- Why did his own people turn against Amaziah?

Verses 23-29. Jeroboam did evil in the eyes of the Lord, yet he was a great military leader, restoring land lost to enemies in previous years. He also reigned for 41 years.

- Explain?

As I have nothing more to add, a bit of a space filler from Voltaire:

- "The first to apologise is the bravest; the first to forgive is the strongest; the first to forget is the happiest."

And Nietzsche:

- "The most dangerous form of blindness is believing your perspective is the only reality."

And quotes from Lily Tomlin, an American comedian and writer:

- "I could agree with you, but then we would both be wrong."
- "I thought I was indecisive but now I am not sure."
- "I never make the same mistake twice. I make it five or six times, just to be sure."