

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 25

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart. 3 And as soon as the royal power was firmly his, he killed his servants who had struck down the king his father. 4 But he did not put their children to death, according to what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "Fathers shall not die because of their children, nor children die because of their fathers, but each one shall die for his own sin."

25:1–28 Typically, the Chronicler has divided the reign of Amaziah into two parts: (1) the good years, marked by obedience, divine blessing and victory (vv. 1–13), and (2) the bad years of idolatry, defeat and regicide (vv. 14–28). (CSB)

Amaziah was co-regent with Uzziah. Though the Chronicler usually divides the reigns of kings into periods of good and evil, here he describes Amaziah as uncommitted (vv 1–4), giving a detailed report of Amaziah's first battle (vv 5–13), apostasy (v 14), and prophetic rebuke (vv 15–16). (TLSB)

25:1 *Amaziah*. Tenth king in Davidic monarchy. (TLSB)

twenty-nine years. 796–767 B.C. (CSB)

25:2 The Chronicler does not indicate that Amaziah failed to remove the high places, which continued to be used as places for sacrifice by the people (see 2Ki 14:4). Also compare 24:2 with 2Ki 12:4, and 26:4 with 2Ki 15:4. The writer appears to be motivated by his outline, which covered the good years first and then the reversion to evil. Negative comments about these kings are held to the second half of the account of their reigns, whereas in Kings the summary judgment about their reigns and the high places is given immediately. (CSB)

Amaziah's Victories

5 Then Amaziah assembled the men of Judah and set them by fathers' houses under commanders of thousands and of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin. He mustered those twenty years old and upward, and found that they were 300,000 choice men, fit for war, able to handle spear and shield. 6 He hired also 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 100 talents of silver. 7 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, with all these Ephraimites. 8 But go, act, be strong for the battle. Why should you suppose that God will cast you down before the enemy? For God has power to help or to cast down." 9 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." 10 Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim to go home again. And they became very angry with Judah and returned home in fierce anger. 11 But Amaziah took courage and led out his people and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 men of Seir. 12 The men of Judah captured another 10,000 alive and took them to the top of a rock and threw them down from the top of the rock, and

they were all dashed to pieces. 13 But the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, not letting them go with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 people in them and took much spoil.

25:5–16 An expansion of 2Ki 14:7. The author of Kings mentions the successful war with Edom only as a prelude to Amaziah's challenge to Jehoash, but the Chronicler sets it in the framework of his emphasis on immediate retribution: Obedience brings victory over Edom, while the subsequent idolatry (vv. 14–16) brings defeat in the campaign against Israel. By expanding his account the Chronicler gives the theological reason for both the victory over Edom and the defeat before Israel. (CSB)

The Chronicler uses the warfare account to explain the theological reasons for the victory over Edom and the rejection of Israel. (TLSB)

25:5 *assembled*. A military census was taken to determine the forces available (cf 1Ch 21; 27:23–24; 2Ch 13:3; 14:8; 17:14–19). Though 300,000 troops could be mustered, the number was far fewer than Asa's 580,000 or Jehoshaphat's 1,160,000. (TLSB)

25:7 *man of God*. Unidentified prophet. (TLSB)

do not let the army of Israel go with you. Another instance of the Chronicler's condemnation of alliances that imply lack of trust in the Lord. Cf. other prophetic speeches that call on the people to trust in God (20:15–17, 20; 32:7–8). (CSB)

all these Ephraimites. Such alliances imply a lack of trust in Yahweh. An important theme in the Chronicler's theology is the necessity of trusting in the Lord and rejecting all foreign alliances (cf 16:2–9; 19:1–3; 20:15–17, 35–37; 32:7–8), emphasizing the idea of the Lord fighting for the few against the many (cf Jgs 7; 1Sm 14:6; 1Ki 20:27; 2Ch 13:3–18; 14:8–15). (TLSB)

25:9 *much more*. Cf Pr 16:8. (TLSB)

25:10 Unique to 2Ch. Amaziah's response to the prophet's words was to discharge the mercenaries, only to have them ransack and murder throughout Judah (v 13). (TLSB)

25:11 *Seir*. Another name for Edom (cf 20:22). (TLSB)

25:12 *threw them down*. No reason is given for this massacre of prisoners—perhaps it is in retaliation for the Edomites' earlier attacks. (TLSB)

25:13 May be the inciting incident for the later war with the north. *Samaria*. A town by this name in the southern kingdom is not otherwise known. The reference may be a copyist's error. (CSB)

Beth-horon. C 10–12 mi NW of Jerusalem. (TLSB)

Amaziah's Idolatry

14 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. 15 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?” 16 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.”

25:14–25 The Chronicler’s account of the war with the north is close to the parallel in 2Ki 14:8–14, except for some additions in line with his theme of immediate retribution. The Chronicler mentions Amaziah’s foolish idolatry and the prophetic speech of judgment, neither of which is found in Kings. He also adds notes in vv. 20, 27 to emphasize that the idolatry of Amaziah was being punished. (CSB)

25:14 Unique to 2Ch. Amaziah makes a bizarre choice, previously unparalleled by a Judean king (Ahaz would later worship the gods of the victorious enemy in 28:22–23). His idolatry explains his defeat by Jehu of Israel (vv 17–24; cf 1Ch 10:13–14; 2Ch 22:7–9). (TLSB)

25:15–16 Unique to 2Ch. Yahweh foretells Amaziah’s subsequent defeat through another unnamed prophet.(TLSB)

25:15 *did not deliver*. Worshiping gods who could not protect their devotees was as absurd as it was sinful. (TLSB)

25:16 *royal counselor?* Some prophets did serve as counselors.(TLSB)

Stop! Though Amaziah had begun well (v 2), had listened to another one of God’s prophets (vv 7–10a), and had won a victory on this account, he hardened his heart to God’s Word. Chem: “Satan is the efficacious cause in the sons of disobedience when they put the Word of the Lord out of their sight” (*LTh* 1:196). (TLSB)

struck down? Amaziah accuses the prophet of treason. (TLSB)

25:5–16 Though the Lord grants him victories, Amaziah continues in rebellion. Today, we likewise feel the constant pressure to compromise the truth and follow the Lord halfheartedly. By His faithful and gracious Word, the Lord, who has power to help, will unstop our ears and turn our hearts to hear Him. • Speak, O Lord, that I may know Your ways and walk in them by faith. Amen. (TLSB)

Israel Defeats Amaziah

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let us look one another in the face.” **18** And Joash the king of Israel sent word to Amaziah king of Judah, “A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son for a wife,’ and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle. **19** You say, ‘See, I have struck down Edom,’ and your heart has lifted you up in boastfulness. But now stay at home. Why should you provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?”

20 But Amaziah would not listen, for it was of God, in order that he might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought the gods of Edom. **21** So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. **22** And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his home. **23** And Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem for 400 cubits, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. **24** And he seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God, in the care of Obed-edom. He seized also the treasuries of the king’s house, also hostages, and he returned to Samaria. **25** Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. **26** Now the rest of the deeds of Amaziah, from first to last, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel? **27** From the time when he turned away from the LORD they made a conspiracy

against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there. 28 And they brought him upon horses, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of David.

25:17–24 Amaziah, after gaining victory over the Edomites, challenges Joash of Israel (v 17) and is defeated. Challenge was prompted by the actions of the Israelite mercenaries (v 13). (TLSB)

25:17 *look one another in the face*. Have a conference to negotiate relations. (TLSB)

25:20 *they had sought the gods of Edom*. The Chronicler blames the people as well as the king. (TLSB)

25:22 *every man fled to his home*. Expression for a complete rout (cf 1Sm 4:10). (TLSB)

25:23 *Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate*. Both gates were located in the northern wall of the city, the Ephraim Gate at the northwest and the Corner Gate at the northeast. (CSB)

On the road to Ephraim (the Northern Kingdom); called the Damascus Gate today. (TLSB)

Corner Gate. At the extreme west end of the wall, where it formed an “Angle” (26:9) with the wall from the south. (TLSB)

25:24 The family of Obed-Edom was the Levitical family into whose care the temple storehouse had been entrusted (1Ch 26:15). (CSB)

25:27 *they*. Likely refers to Judah’s leading families. (TLSB)

Lachish. One of the cities fortified by Rehoboam, Solomon’s son (11:5–12). (TLSB)

25:28 *upon horses*. Lit, “upon the horses.” Perhaps the assassins’ animals were used to transport the body back c 30 mi over the Judean hills. (TLSB)