SECOND KINGS

Chapter 14

***Amaziah King of Judah***

**In the second year of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel, Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah began to reign. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother’s name was Jehoaddin; she was from Jerusalem. 3 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not as his father David had done. In everything he followed the example of his father Joash. 4 The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. 5 After the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, he executed the officials who had murdered his father the king. 6 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 where the Lord commanded: “Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sins.” 7 He was the one who defeated ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt and captured Sela in battle, calling it Joktheel, the name it has to this day. 8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, with the challenge: “Come, meet me face to face.” 9 But Jehoash king of Israel replied to Amaziah king of Judah: “A thistle in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon, ‘Give your daughter to my son in marriage.’ Then a wild beast in Lebanon came along and trampled the thistle underfoot. 10 You have indeed defeated Edom and now you are arrogant. Glory in your victory, but stay at home! Why ask for trouble and cause your own downfall and that of Judah also?” 11 Amaziah, however, would not listen, so Jehoash king of Israel attacked. He and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth Shemesh in Judah. 12 Judah was routed by Israel, and every man fled to his home. 13 Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth Shemesh. Then Jehoash went to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate—a section about six hundred feet long. 14 He took all the gold and silver and all the articles found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace. He also took hostages and returned to Samaria. 15 As for the other events of the reign of Jehoash, what he did and his achievements, including his war against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? 16 Jehoash rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. And Jeroboam his son succeeded him as king. 17 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel. 18 As for the other events of Amaziah’s reign, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? 19 They conspired against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish, but they sent men after him to Lachish and killed him there. 20 He was brought back by horse and was buried in Jerusalem with his fathers, in the City of David. 21 Then all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. 22 He was the one who rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah rested with his fathers.**

**14:1** *second year of Jehoash.* 796 b.c. (see note on 13:10). (CSB)

**14:2** *twenty-nine years.* 796–767. Amaziah’s 29-year reign included a 24-year co-regency with his son Azariah (see notes on v. 21; 15:1–2). (CSB)

**14:3** *not as his father David.* Amaziah did not remain completely free from involvement with the worship of pagan deities (see 2Ch 25:14–16). His loyalty to the Lord fell short of that of Asa and Jehoshaphat before him (see 1Ki 15:11, 14; 22:43; see also 1Ki 9:4; 11:4). (CSB)

**14:4** *high places, however, were not removed.* See note on 1Ki 15:14. (CSB)

**14:7** *defeated ten thousand Edomites.* Amaziah was able to regain temporarily (see 2Ch 28:17) some of Judah’s control over the Edomites, which had been lost during the reign of Jehoram (see 8:20–22). (CSB)

*Valley of Salt.* The same battlefield on which David had defeated the Edomites (see 2Sa 8:13; 1Ch 18:12; Ps 60 title), generally identified with the Arabah directly south of the Dead Sea. (CSB)

*Sela.* Means “rock”; often regarded as the Edomite stronghold presently known as Petra (a Greek word meaning “rock”; see Jdg 1:36; Isa 16:1; 42:11; Ob 3). (CSB)

*to this day.* Until the time of the writing of the account of Amaziah’s reign used by the author (see note on 1Ki 8:8; see also Introduction to 1 Kings: Author, Sources and Date). (CSB)

**14:8** *meet me face to face.* A challenge amounting to a declaration of war. Perhaps it was provoked by the hostile actions of mercenary troops from the northern kingdom after their dismissal from the Judahite army (see 2Ch 25:10, 13) and by the refusal of Jehoash to establish a marriage alliance with Amaziah (see v. 9). (CSB)

**14:9** *Jehoash … replied.* For his reply Jehoash used a fable (see Jdg 9:8–15) in which he represented himself as a strong cedar and Amaziah as an insignificant thistle that could easily be trampled underfoot. (CSB)

**14:11** *would not listen.* See 2Ch 25:20. (CSB)

*Beth Shemesh.* A town about 15 miles west of Jerusalem near the border between Judah and Dan (see Jos 15:10; 1Sa 6:9). (CSB)

**14:13** *Jehoash … captured Amaziah.* It is likely that Amaziah was taken back to the northern kingdom as a prisoner, where he remained until being released to return to Judah after the death of Jehoash (see vv. 15–16; see also note on v. 21). (CSB)

*Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.* The Corner Gate (see Jer 31:38; Zec 14:10) was at the northwest corner of the wall around Jerusalem. The Ephraim Gate was on the north side of Jerusalem (see Ne 12:39), 600 feet east of the Corner Gate. This northwestern section of the wall of Jerusalem was the point at which the city was most vulnerable to attack. (CSB)

**14:14** *gold and silver and all the articles found in the temple … and … the royal palace.* The value of the plundered articles was probably not great, because Joash had previously stripped the temple and palace to pay tribute to Hazael of Damascus (see 12:17–18). *took hostages.* The hostages were probably intended to secure additional payments of tribute in view of the meager war booty. (CSB)

**14:15** *annals of the kings of Israel.* See note on 1Ki 14:19. (CSB)

**14:16** *rested with his fathers.* See 13:12–13; see also note on 1Ki 1:21. (CSB)

**14:17** *lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoash.* Jehoash died in 782 b.c. and Amaziah in 767. (CSB)

**14:18** *annals of the kings of Judah.* See note on 1Ki 14:29. (CSB)

**14:19** *conspired against him.* 2Ch 25:27 connects the conspiracy against Amaziah with his turning away from the Lord, but it did not serve the purpose of the author of Kings to note this. (CSB)

*Lachish.* A fortress city in southern Judah 15 miles west of Hebron, presently known as Tell ed-Duweir (see 18:14; 2Ch 11:9). (CSB)

**14:21** *Then all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was.* Or “Now all the people of Judah had taken Azariah, when he was.” See NIV text note. (CSB)

*made him king in place of his father Amaziah.* It is likely that this occurred after Amaziah had been taken prisoner by Jehoash (see v. 13). Thus Azariah’s reign substantially overlapped that of his father Amaziah (see notes on v. 2; 15:2). (CSB)

**14:22** *rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah.* Azariah extended the subjection of the Edomites begun by his father (see v. 7) and reestablished Israelite control over the important port city on the Gulf of Aqaba (see 1Ki 9:26). (CSB)

***Jeroboam II King of Israel***

**23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. 24 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. 25 He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher. 26 The Lord had seen how bitterly everyone in Israel, whether slave or free, was suffering; there was no one to help them. 27 And since the Lord had not said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash. 28 As for the other events of Jeroboam’s reign, all he did, and his military achievements, including how he recovered for Israel both Damascus and Hamath, which had belonged to Yaudi, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? 29 Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel. And Zechariah his son succeeded him as king.**

**14:23** *fifteenth year of Amaziah.* 782 b.c. (see note on v. 2). This was the beginning of Jeroboam’s sole reign. He had previously served as co-regent with his father Jehoash. (CSB)

*forty-one years.* 793–753 (including the co-regency with his father). (CSB)

**14:24** *sins of Jeroboam.* See 1Ki 12:26–32; 13:33–34; 14:16; Am 3:13–14; 4:4–5; 5:4–6; 7:10–17. (CSB)

**14:25** *from Lebo Hamath.* Jeroboam II was able to free the northern kingdom from the oppression it had suffered at the hands of Hazael and Ben-Hadad (see 10:32; 12:17; 13:3, 22, 25). He also extended Israelite political control over the Arameans of Damascus, an undertaking that had been begun by his father Jehoash (see 13:25). Assyrian pressure on the Arameans, including attacks on Damascus by Shalmaneser IV in 773 b.c. and Ashur-Dan III in 772, had weakened the Arameans enough to enable Jeroboam II to gain the upper hand over them. Meanwhile, Assyria also became too weak to suppress Jeroboam’s expansion. (CSB)

*Sea of the Arabah.* See NIV text note. According to Am 6:14 the southern limit of Jeroboam’s kingdom in Transjordan was the “valley of the Arabah”—probably to be connected with the Valley of Salt (see note on v. 7). If so, Jeroboam had also subdued Moab and the Ammonites. (CSB)

*Jonah … the prophet from Gath Hepher.* See Jnh 1:1. Gath Hepher was located in the tribe of Zebulun, northeast of Nazareth (see Jos 19:13). This reference to Jonah is of help in dating the ministry of the prophet. (CSB)

**14:26** *slave or free.* See note on 1Ki 14:10. (CSB)

*suffering.* At the hands of the Arameans (see 10:32–33; 13:3–7), the Moabites (13:20) and the Ammonites (Am 1:13). (CSB)

**14:27** *had not said.* The sin of the Israelites had not yet reached its full measure, and the Lord mercifully extended to the nation an additional period of grace in which there was opportunity to repent (see note on 13:23). Persistence in apostasy, however, would bring certain judgment (see Am 4:2–3; 6:14). (CSB)

*saved them by the hand of Jeroboam.* See note on 13:5. (CSB)

**14:28** *all he did.* During Jeroboam’s reign the northern kingdom enjoyed greater material prosperity than it had at any time since the rule of David and Solomon. Unfortunately, it was also a time of religious formalism and apostasy as well as social injustice (see the books of Amos and Hosea, who prophesied during Jeroboam’s reign). (CSB)

*Damascus and Hamath.* See note on v. 25. (CSB)

*Yaudi.* Thought by some to be a place in northern Aram referred to in a few Assyrian inscriptions. Others understand the word as a reference to Judah (see NIV text note) in the sense that Damascus and Hamath were once included in territory ruled by David and Solomon (see 2Sa 8:6; 2Ch 8:3). (CSB)

*annals of the kings of Israel.* See note on 1Ki 14:19. (CSB)

**14:29** *rested with his fathers.* See note on 1Ki 1:21. (CSB)

*Zechariah his son succeeded him.* For the reign of Zechariah see 15:8–12. (CSB)