

2 Chr. 25

Amaziah: Lifted Up and Cast Down

Amaziah was Lifted Up

- When he did what was right before God

2 Chronicles 25:1–2 (ESV)

1 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.

Amaziah was Lifted Up

- When he did what was right before God
- When he punished evildoers according to the law

2 Chronicles 25:3–4 (ESV)

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.”

Amaziah was Lifted Up

- When he did what was right before God
- When he punished evildoers according to the law
- When he trusted the Lord to help him against Edom

2 Chronicles 25:5–8 (ESV)

5 Then Amaziah assembled the men of Judah 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.”

Amaziah Trusted in the Lord

- Even though it required him to pay a price

2 Chronicles 25:9–10 (ESV)

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.

Amaziah Trusted in the Lord

- Even though it required him to pay a price
- Even though it offended his allies

2 Chronicles 25:10 (ESV)

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.

Amaziah Trusted in the Lord

- Even though it required him to pay a price
- Even though it offended his allies
- Even though it required courage and decisive action

2 Chronicles 25:11–12 (ESV)

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.

Amaziah Trusted in the Lord

- Even though it required him to pay a price
- Even though it offended his allies
- Even though it required courage and decisive action
- Even though it required him to pay another price

2 Chronicles 25:13 (ESV)

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.

Amaziah was Lifted Up

- When he did what was right before God
- When he punished evildoers according to the law
- When he trusted the Lord to help him against Edom
- When he gained the victory over Edom

Amaziah was Cast Down

- Because he adopted the idols of his defeated enemies

2 Chronicles 25:14 (ESV)

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.

Amaziah was Cast Down

- Because he adopted the idols of his defeated enemies
- Because he refused to accept the rebuke of God's prophet

2 Chronicles 25:15–16 (ESV)

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.”

Amaziah was Cast Down

- Because he adopted the idols of his defeated enemies
- Because he refused to accept the rebuke of God's prophet
- Because he was lifted up with pride

2 Chronicles 25:17–19 (ESV)

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?”

Amaziah was Cast Down

- Because he adopted the idols of his defeated enemies
- Because he refused to accept the rebuke of God's prophet
- Because he was lifted up with pride
- Because he started an ill-advised war

2 Chronicles 25:20–24 (ESV)

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.

Amaziah was Cast Down

- Because he adopted the idols of his defeated enemies
- Because he refused to accept the rebuke of God's prophet
- Because he was lifted up with pride
- Because he started an ill-advised war
- Because the nation would not tolerate an idolatrous ruler

2 Chronicles 25:27–28 (ESV)

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.

Will You Be Cast Down or Lifted Up?

CAST DOWN

- If your successes result in pride
- If you adopt the failed idols of God's enemies
- If you will not accept correction
- If you fight the wrong battles

LIFTED UP

- When you do what is right before God with your whole heart
- When you guide your actions according to the law
- When you trust the Lord

Trust in the Lord...

- Even when you must pay a price
- Even when it may offend others
- Even when it requires courage and decisive action
- ...and you will be lifted up!

2 Chronicles 25:8 (ESV)

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."