

The Lord is Able to Give You Much More

2 Chronicles 25

The King is Coming (2 Chronicles)

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livinghopechurch.net

“I was astonished that although I now loved You, I did not persist in enjoyment of my God. Your beauty drew me to You, but soon I was dragged away from You by my own weight and in dismay, I plunged again into the things of this world as though I had sensed the fragrance of the fare but was not yet able to eat it.”

~ **St. Augustine**

Open your Bible to **2 Chronicles**. We are in a 15-message series in the book of 2 Chronicles entitled “The King is Coming.” This morning we are looking at a message number ten entitled: “Amaziah: The Lord is Able to Give You More.”

Proposition: In order to receive all that God has for you, you must believe He’s got more for you than the world has for you.

Introduction

In **Psalm 42:1–2** we find a holy, unwavering, desire for God: “As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”

Do you desire God this morning? I want to prove to you this morning that if you desire anything less than God, you are wasting your life on this earth. The highest, most satisfying thing to seek is the person of Jesus Christ.

As C.S. Lewis says in his book, *The Weight of Glory*, the Lord’s people ought to have greater, stronger desires. He says,

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires **not too strong**, but **too weak**. We are **half-hearted creatures**, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when **infinite joy** is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he **cannot imagine** what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

Isn't that our problem: we cannot imagine the infinite joy that is offered us in Christ, not only in glory, but here and now.

I want to introduce you to a king who also was a HALF HEARTED creature. His heart was too small to experience the infinite joy God had for him. His Name is King Amaziah.

A Distracted Heart

2 Chron 25:1-2, "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.**"

The Meaning of Whole or Shalom

When the Bible says Amaziah did not have a "whole" heart, the phrase, "whole" heart is literally a "heart of Shalom."

According to Biblical scholar **Kevin J. Vanhoozer**, shalom means more than mere peace. It means to have perfect wholeness, or to be completely devoted to God.

The Chronicler is basically saying that Amaziah was at best mediocre in his devotion to God.¹ His heart was clearly divided.

Amaziah had a distracted heart. God wants to give us more than distracted living! The Lord is able to give you more than...

I. Distracted living, (23:1-4).

We turn to 2 Chronicles 25, and see Amaziah served the Lord for 29 years as king in Jerusalem, but he did not have a "perfect" heart. He was distracted!

Now it didn't look like that. It seems he wants to keep the Law of Moses and be a good king ruling in righteous judgement.

2 Chron 25:3-4, "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 seems to know the Law. He seems to be a good king. But the Chronicler tells us right away that his heart wasn't "whole" or "perfect" in God's Shalom. His heart was not at peace with God. He was distracted.

Our Main Distractions

We can see perhaps four areas of distraction for Amaziah, and really for any child of God. Certainly there is more, but here are four key areas of distraction for the child of God.

WORRY
BUSYNESS
BITTERNESS
AMUSEMENT

¹ Pratt, R. L., Jr. (2006). *1 and 2 Chronicles: A Mentor Commentary* (p. 532). Fearn, Tain, Ross-shire, Great Britain: Mentor.

ARE YOU DISTRACTED WITH WORRY?

Amaziah's Distraction with the Worry of War!

We learn in Amaziah's story that he was so concerned about a war that he was facing with the Edomites, that he spent a lot of time and money hiring 100,000 extra soldiers from Israel to help attain a victory. His worry consumed him. Amaziah's heart was not focused on the Lord. It was distracted with the Worry of War!

2 Chron 25:5-6, "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."

He wasn't bringing his worries to the Lord. He was carrying them himself. We have plenty to worry about don't we?

Paying for Someone to Worry

A story from Jay Adams tells a unique story about worry.² "Alex used to worry all of the time about everything. His friend asked what had changed. Why wasn't he worrying anymore?"

Alex replied, "It's wonderful, I haven't worried for several weeks now."

"That's great!" his friend exclaimed – how did you manage it? What brought about the change?"

Alex explained, "You see, I hired a man to do all of my worrying for me."

"What? You hired a man to do all of your worrying for you?"

"Right," Alex assured him. "Well," his friend mused, "I must say, I've never heard of something like that before. Say, how much does he charge you?"

"A thousand dollars a week." "

A thousand dollars a week? How could you possibly raise a thousand dollars a week to pay him?" Alex answered, "That's his worry."

Someone to Handle Your Worries

Don't you wish it were possible for someone else to handle your worries for you? Well, the Bible says that it is possible; indeed, God encourages His children to cast all of their cares on Him (1 Pet 5:7).

Be Anxious for Nothing

Phil 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Worry is a Sin

Why is worry a sin? John MacArthur has a helpful insight: "Worry is the sin of distrusting the **promise** and **providence** of God, and yet it is a sin that Christians commit perhaps more frequently than any other."

² From Jay E. Adams. What to do about worry. Pamphlet. Printed in 1975.

St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt on Worry

“When Christians are working joyfully and progressing in the Christian life, the rulers of darkness use distractions to hamper our progress, such as dark and **worrisome thoughts**. They are able to change the shapes of the **distractions** and bind us with **anxiety**, attacking us from all sides against the mind...

But even then you need not fear their deceitful displays. For they are nothing and quickly disappear if we fortify ourselves beforehand with trust in Christ instead of **worry** and **fear**... indeed, by prayer, fasting, and faith in the Lord their attack immediately fails.”³

Isaiah’s Promise

Listen to Isaiah’s promise from God... **Isaiah 26:3**, “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”

Top 10 Worries

Recently I came across a list of top 10 worries from a recent survey. Maybe they’re not your top ten, but these are things we tend to worry about.

10. Depression / anxiety
9. My age / my health / illness
8. Paying rent/mortgage
7. Worried about my physique
6. Will I find the right spouse / Does my spouse still love me?
5. Financial/credit card debts
4. Job security / work pressures /
3. Domestic pressures / responsibilities (cook, clean, etc)
2. A falling out with friends or family
1. My kids / my marriage

What to Do with Worry?

I want to encourage you that **“TO BE TEMPTED WITH WORRY IS NOT A SIN. 1 Corinthians 10:13**, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**but if you do not answer worry with what is true, you enter into sin and become mastered by anxiety and fear instead of Jesus.”

Our Lord Was Tempted

Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.”

Like Jesus, you must answer any temptation with *what is TRUE* from God’s word. If not, you enter into sin and become mastered by anxiety and fear instead of Jesus.

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is our Master, not fear and anxiety! Remember, in **Matthew 4**, each time Jesus was tempted, how did He answer? “It is written...” You must do the same. So then how do we answer worry?

³ St. Athanasius of Alexandria. Life of Anthony, 202.

How Should You Answer Worry?

Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.**”

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will direct your paths.”

The goal for worry is not to change your circumstances but to draw near to God!

ARE YOU DISTRACTED WITH BUSYNESS?

Sometimes we think if we get busy and work harder, we will have peace. We all go through busy seasons. I love **2 Chron 25:7-8**, “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.**”

God says, “Go, act, be strong... God has power to help or cast down.” Stop spending so much time in your own power and planning. Put the Lord first!!

Most Days We’re Not Thriving, Just Surviving

Kevin DeYoung in his book “Crazy Busy” writes: “You and I have a problem. Most mornings, we drag ourselves out of bed, start the day’s routine, and hope against hope that we can simply hold our ground. Maybe we can keep the house in only a mild state of disaster. Maybe we can break even on the to-do list. Maybe no one else will get sick. Maybe the in-box won’t get any fuller. Maybe we won’t fall asleep after lunch. Maybe, just maybe, we can get enough done in the next eighteen hours to beat back the beast of busyness and live to see another day. We wake up most days not trying to serve, just trying to survive.”⁴

We are truly crazy busy! “We are here and there and everywhere. We are distracted. We are preoccupied. We can’t focus on the task in front of us. We don’t follow through. We don’t keep our commitments. We are so busy with a million pursuits that we don’t even notice the most important things slipping away.”⁵ What’s the answer to busyness?

Seek First the Kingdom

God says in **Matthew 6:33**, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Isaiah 55:9, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God’s Ways are Higher than Your Ways

God can do in a split second what it takes us years and lifetimes to plan! It’s good to have a holy ambition to serve God. It’s good to be sacrificial lambs for one another. But our own efforts of the flesh are vain.

God’s plans are higher than our plans! Be still and know that I am God! Practically, all this means that I must put God first. I must meet with Him before anything else. Martin Luther, so

⁴ DeYoung, Kevin. Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem (Kindle Locations 179-183). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Ibid.

much to do I must pray.

God's timetable. Is God working in your and through your life, or are you functioning in the power of the flesh?

Some of you are so busy, you are ready to despair and give up! **Gal. 6:9**, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

ARE YOU DISTRACTED WITH BITTERNESS?

Amaziah must have been bitter against the Lord. The soldiers of Israel were upset because they couldn't plunder Edom with the army of Judah. These mercenary soldiers (soldiers for hire) did not get their pay from the 200 talents of silver given to the King of Israel. Instead they got their pay through plundering Edom. They would take the spoils of war. So instead of ravaging Edom, the soldiers of Northern Israel ravaged the countryside of Judah.

So we read in **2 Chronicles 25:14**, "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." How insane that Amaziah would bow down and worship the idols from the country he just defeated. But I think there is an element of bitterness since his own people were ravaged.

Get Rid of Bitterness!

Bitterness can manifest in many forms: hurts, grudges, resentments. And they can come from many places: with parents, children, co-workers, church members... but ultimately our bitterness is really against the Lord. It is the Lord who directs our steps. Be careful then to put off bitterness.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV), "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Drinking Poison

Someone said, "Resentment is like drinking a glass of poison hoping the other person will die. Instead, turn to Jesus who gives "peace that passes understanding" (**Phil 4:7**).

Hebrews 12:15, "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled."

Never Take Vengeance

Consider the words of the Apostle Paul in **Romans 12:19**, "Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD."

ARE YOU DISTRACTED WITH AMUSEMENT?

Again we read in **2 Chronicles 25:14**, "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."

I think Amaziah was no longer satisfied with the Lord and instead sought comfort in false gods. We do that don't we?

It could be television, movies, Youtube, Facebook, Twitter or other social media. It could be

an addiction to the news. None of these things is wrong in moderation and as they honor the Lord, but we tend to become A-MUSED. “A” means NO and MUSE means “to think.” Therefore, amusement is when you park your brain at the door and stop thinking.

The Christian is never to stop thinking. He is always to be honoring God with his mind and heart. The Psalmist said in **Psalm 101:3** (KJV), “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”

Amusement is one of the great dangers we face as Christians. As a culture in America, we are amusing ourselves to death.

Leonard Ravenhill Quote

Leonard Ravenhill once said, “Entertainment is the devil's substitute for joy. The more joy you have in the Lord the less entertainment you need.”

With the ever-present amusements and distractions in our lives, we are quickly becoming a people of shallow thoughts, and shallow thoughts will lead to shallow living. There is a simple and inevitable progression at work here:

Distraction — > Shallow Thinking — > Shallow Living

Meditation Pleasing to God

Instead of shallow thinking, we should fix our thoughts on God. We should have meditation on God. We chew our food to digest it. We need to digest the glory of God. We need to chew on it and suck all the flavor! “O taste and see that the Lord is good!”

Psalm 109:39, “Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.”

Psalm 1:3, “[The blessed man's] delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water...”

Psalm 119:148, “My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.”

The Lord is able to give you more of...

II. **Dynamic** living, (25:9).

The War for Amaziah's Heart

We see God's compassion for Judah and for Amaziah in redirecting the king's focus to the power of God. Amaziah is confronted in this chapter with two wars: one from Edom in the south and one from Israel (Ephraim) in the north. But the real battle was for Amaziah's heart.

2 Chron 25:5-13, “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.”

Infinitely More!

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT), “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”

Jim Elliot Quote

Jim Elliot, missionary martyr to the Woadani tribe said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jesus said in **Matthew 10:39**, “If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.” Let go of your life and cling to Christ!

Abundant Life in Christ

Jesus said in **John 10:10**, “I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly.”

Are you hungry for that abundant life? Amaziah was hanging on to his 200 talents of silver, but God said, “I’m able to give you MUCH MORE than this!”

Can’t Afford to Lose the Blessing of God on Your life!

You may say I cannot afford to lose the a certain opportunity. Maybe you have to pay for that opportunity by skipping church for a work opportunity. Perhaps you have to sacrifice your children on the altar of expediency.

You say, I can’t afford to give up this opportunity. **I tell you you cannot afford to lose the blessing of God on your life.** Christ is able to give you more!

Personal examples...

Financially... Tithing... putting God first. My inheritance from my mother. I’ve always learned to put God first.

My Time... I keep the Sabbath holy. My kids know Sunday morning, evening, midweek Small groups, we are going to put God first. He’ll take care of the rest.

He is able to do MUCH MORE than I could ever sacrifice.

You can’t outgive God!

The Lord is able to give you more than...

III. **Double-minded living, (25:14-16).**

If you don't take God up on dynamic living, you'll be double-minded. That was the fate of Amaziah. Amaziah is confronted in this chapter with two wars: one from Edom in the south and one from Israel (Ephraim) in the north.

He went to war with the Edomites and then with Israel, but the real war was for his heart. We see that the circumstances of life often bring out what is really in our heart.

2 Chron 25:14-16, "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."

2 Chron 25:17-24 show how Amaziah was judged. **2 Kings 14:19** says "put Amaziah to death at Lachish." Things did not end well for Amaziah. He was unstable as James says. He had tried to do an impossible thing: he tried to serve two masters.

James 1:18 says, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Conclusion

Are you completely devoted to Christ today? When I came to know Christ, I had no idea what God wanted for me. I was barely making it through high school. I some ambitions for music, a job somewhere. God had much more for me. I could hardly speak English and he had me learn Spanish and be a missionary, and just last week we hired a new Spanish pastor.

What are your goals? God has MUCH MORE for you and for our church!