

Introduction

We have spent a couple of weeks looking at the reign of **AMAZIAH** of Judah. We saw that **AMAZIAH** had a reign that **started well for the most part, but things are not ending well for him because he didn't finish well.**

Before we go back to the Kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, we're going to go ahead and deal a little more here with **AMAZIAH'S DEFEAT** and his **DEATH** (i.e. **AMAZIAH'S END** that's the title for tonight's study.)

Once again, we will look at this mostly from the *2 Chronicles* account because it gives us more information than the *2 Kings* account. So let's begin by reminding you of a few things we've seen and then I want to expand on that:

I. WE SAW THAT THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR AMAZIAH WAS HIS IDOLATRY!

We saw last time the stupidity of **AMAZIAH bringing back the gods of Edom from his triumph there and worshiping them.** The **LORD** sent an unnamed prophet to rebuke him, but in his **PRIDE** he wasn't listening to that! In fact, he even threatened that prophet! He thought he was **ABOVE** needing to listen to the **LORD!**

So, because of his **idolatry** and **turning a deaf ear to the Word of the LORD**, the **LORD's** hand turned against him!
(2 Chronicles 25:15-16)

II. WE SAW THAT THE LORD USED AMAZIAH'S PRIDE TO BRING HIM TO DEFEAT! (2 Kings 14:10; 2 Chronicles 25:19-20)

If you remember, where we left off in our study last time, **AMAZIAH** was determined to battle **JOASH** king of Israel!

JOASH even realized that **AMAZIAH'S PRIDE** was leading him to do this and warned him against what he was set on doing!

Nevertheless, **AMAZIAH** went to battle against **JOASH** and the armies of Israel, but it did not go well with him because **the LORD delivered AMAZIAH and his army into the hand of their enemies because of their IDOLATRY!** *(2 Chronicles 25:20)*

Sometimes the **LORD** uses our very sin to bring about **CHASTENING** in our lives! God used **AMAZIAH'S PRIDE** against him!

III. WE SAW THAT THE LORD USED JOASH AND ISRAEL NOT ONLY TO DEFEAT AMAZIAH, BUT TO HUMILIATE HIM!

AMAZIAH was captured by **JOASH** and brought back to Jerusalem to look on while **JOASH** and his army **broke down part of the wall of Jerusalem** and then **seized all the gold and silver and vessels that were found in the house of God** as well as **the treasuries of the king's house** along with **some hostages** and carried them back to Samaria. *(2 Kings 14:12-14; 2 Chronicles 25:23-24)*

Now, I think it is important for us to spend a little more time here: The root cause of AMAZIAH'S humiliating defeat was his PRIDE!

This calamity that **AMAZIAH** brought upon himself and his city actually verifies several of **SOLOMON'S** proverbs as well as some of the words of **JESUS, JAMES, AND PETER** and **OTHERS:**

SOLOMON had this to say about PRIDE:

Proverbs 6:16-17—“16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look...”

Proverbs 11:2—“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”

Proverbs 16:18—“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 18:12—“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.”

Proverbs 29:23—“A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

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Proverbs 25:8—“Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.”
We'll see this come into play in the death of **AMAZIAH!**

JESUS confirmed this about PRIDE:

Luke 14:11—“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

JAMES and PETER reiterated this about PRIDE:

James 4:6—“...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”

1 Peter 5:5—“...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

James 4:10—“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

1 Peter 5:6—“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

TESTIMONY OF OTHERS confirms this about PRIDE:

The Devil:

Isaiah 14:12-16—“12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

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Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 4:37—“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”

Daniel To Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar's grandson):

Daniel 5:20—“But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne.”

Daniel 5:22-23—“22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; 23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:”

Hosea the Prophet regarding Ephraim (i.e. Israel)

Hosea 7:10—“And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.”

An Unnamed Psalmist

Psalms 10:4—“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”
(That would apply to what we see in **AMAZIAH'S** resistance to the Word of the **LORD** from the unnamed prophet!)

Jeremiah The Prophet

Jeremiah 43:1-2—“1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words, 2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:”

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So, one of the reasons for this story that can be CLEARLY seen is what PRIDE will do if you don't get rid of it!

IV. WE SEE THE FINAL MENTION OF AMAZIAH'S LIFE, THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM, AND HIS DEATH!

(2 Chronicles 25:25-28)

Remember how AMAZIAH'S father JOASH died at the hands of conspirators? In fact, those were the ones that AMAZIAH dealt with as he assumed the throne of his father! He put them to death!

Well, we see the same thing happen to AMAZIAH. There was a conspiracy that rose against him in Jerusalem.

You think the people of Jerusalem and Judah might have blamed AMAZIAH for the defeat, the breach in the city wall and for all the loss incurred as the Temple and the palace were spoiled by Israel? Probably so...and rightfully so! The responsibility for defeat fell squarely on AMAZIAH'S shoulders!

We see he caught wind of the conspiracy and he ran to try to hide in Lachish which was about 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem. We are not told why he chose Lachish, however I read that of the cities in the ancient Kingdom of Judah, Lachish was second in importance only to Jerusalem, so that could be why.

Well, AMAZIAH could run, but he could not hide! It is kind of hard to hide when you have literally messed up royally (pun intended) and people don't like you and are willing to snitch on you!

It is even harder when the LORD has it in for you!

Judgment comes to the sinner who, in his PRIDE, shuns the LORD!
Judgment is sure!

But we also need to know that chastening comes to the Believer who strays away from the LORD and allows PRIDE to get in the way of making his or her way back to the LORD!