

2CHRONICLES 25: 1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Jehoadan, of Jerusalem.

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Amaziah succeeds his father Joash, and begins his reign well, 2Chr 25:1, 2Chr 25:2. He slays his father's murderers but spares their children, 2Chr 25:3, 2Chr 25:4. He reviews and remodels the army, 2Chr 25:5; and hires a hundred thousand soldiers out of Israel, whom, on the expostulation of a prophet, he sends home again, without bringing them into active service; at which they are greatly offended, 2Chr 25:6-10. He attacks the Syrians, kills ten thousand, and takes ten thousand prisoners, whom he precipitates from the top of a rock, so that they are dashed to pieces, 2Chr 25:11, 2Chr 25:12. The Israelitish soldiers, sent back, ravage several of the cities of Judah, 2Chr 25:13. Amaziah becomes an idolater, 2Chr 25:14. Is reproved by a prophet, whom he threatens, and obliges to desist, 2Chr 25:15, 2Chr 25:16. He challenges Joash, king of Israel, 2Chr 25:17; who reproves him by a parable, 2Chr 25:18, 2Chr 25:19. Not desisting, the armies meet, the Jews are overthrown, and Amaziah taken prisoner by Joash, who ravages the temple, and takes away all the treasures of the king, 2Chr 25:20-24. The reign of Amaziah: a conspiracy is formed against him; he flees to Lachish, whither he is pursued and slain; is brought to Jerusalem, and buried with his fathers, 2Chr 25:25-28.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 2 He did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.

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#### Verse 2

He did that which was right - He began his reign well, but soon became an idolater, 2Chr 25:14, 2Chr 25:15.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 3 Now when the kingdom was established to him, he killed his servants who had killed the king his father.

2CHRONICLES 25: 4 But he didn't put their children to death, but did according to that which is written in the law in the book of Moses, as the LORD commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers; but every man shall die for his own sin."

2CHRONICLES 25: 5 Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and ordered them according to their fathers' houses, under captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, even all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and upward, and found them three hundred thousand chosen men, able to go out to war, who could handle spear and shield.

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#### Verse 5

Gathered Judah together - He purposed to avenge himself of the Syrians, but wished to know his military strength before he came to a rupture.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 6 He hired also one hundred thousand mighty men of valor out of Israel for one hundred talents of silver.

2CHRONICLES 25: 7 A man of God came to him, saying, "O king, don't let the army of Israel go with you; for the LORD is not with Israel, with all the children of Ephraim.

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Verse 7

The Lord is not with Israel - "The Word of the Lord is not the helper of the Israelites, nor of the kingdom of the tribe of Ephraim." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 8 But if you will go, take action, be strong for the battle. God will overthrow you before the enemy; for God has power to help, and to overthrow."

2CHRONICLES 25: 9 Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel?" The man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this."

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Verse 9

The Lord is able to give thee much more than this - Better lose the money than keep the men, for they will be a curse unto thee.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 10 Then Amaziah separated them, the army that had come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: therefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in fierce anger.

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Verse 10

They returned home in great anger - They thought they were insulted, and began to meditate revenge. See the notes on 2 Kings 14:1-20 (note), where almost every circumstance in this chapter is examined and explained.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 11 Amaziah took courage, and led his people out, and went to the Valley of Salt, and struck ten thousand of the children of Seir.

2CHRONICLES 25: 12 The children of Judah carry away ten thousand alive, and brought them to the top of the rock, and threw them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were broken in pieces.

2CHRONICLES 25: 13 But the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell on the cities of Judah, from Samaria even to Beth Horon, and struck of them three thousand, and took much plunder.

2CHRONICLES 25: 14 Now after Amaziah had come from the slaughter of the Edomites, he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense to them.

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Verse 14

The gods of the children of Seir - "The idols of the children of Gebal." - Targum.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 15 Therefore the LORD's anger was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent to him a prophet, who said to him, "Why have you sought after the gods of the people, which have not delivered their own people out of your hand?"

2CHRONICLES 25: 16 As he talked with him, the king said to him, "Have we made you one of the king's counsellors? Stop! Why should you be struck down?"

Then the prophet stopped, and said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this, and have not listened to my counsel."

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Verse 16

Art thou made of the king's counsel? - How darest thou give advice to, or reprove, a king?

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2CHRONICLES 25: 17 Then Amaziah king of Judah consulted his advisers, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face."

2CHRONICLES 25: 18 Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as his wife; then a wild animal that was in Lebanon passed by, and trampled down the thistle.

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Verse 18

The thistle that was in Lebanon - See the explanation of this 2Kgs 14:9 (note). After reciting this fable, the Targum adds, "Thus hast thou done in the time thou didst send unto me, and didst lead up from the house of Israel a hundred thousand strong warriors for a hundred talents of silver: and after they were sent, thou didst not permit them to go with thee to war, but didst send them back, greatly enraged, so that they spread themselves over the country; and having cut off three thousand, they brought back much spoil."

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2CHRONICLES 25: 19 You say to yourself that you have struck Edom; and your heart lifts you up to boast. Now stay at home. Why should you meddle with trouble, that you should fall, even you, and Judah with you?"

2CHRONICLES 25: 20 But Amaziah would not listen; for it was of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought after the gods of Edom.

2CHRONICLES 25: 21 So Joash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

2CHRONICLES 25: 22 Judah was defeated by Israel; and they fled every man to his tent.

2CHRONICLES 25: 23 Joash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

2CHRONICLES 25: 24 He took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in God's house with Obed-Edom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

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#### Verse 24

In the house of God with Obed-edom - From 1Chr 26:15 we learn that to Obed-edom and his descendants was allotted the keeping of the house of Asuppim or collections for the Divine treasury.

And - the hostages - See on 2Kgs 14:14 (note).

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2CHRONICLES 25: 25 Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

2CHRONICLES 25: 26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, aren't they written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

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#### Verse 26

The rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last - Says the Targum; "The first, when he walked in the fear of the Lord, the last, when he departed from the right way before the Lord; are they not written," etc.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 27 Now from the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem. He fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and killed him there.

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#### Verse 27

Made a conspiracy - He no doubt became very unpopular after having lost the battle with the Israelites; the consequence of which was the dismantling of Jerusalem, and the seizure of the royal treasures, with several other evils. It is likely that the last fifteen years of his reign were greatly embittered: so that, finding the royal city to be no place of safety, he endeavored to secure himself at Lachish; but all in vain, for thither his murderers pursued him; and he who forsook the Lord was forsaken by every friend, perished in his gainsaying, and came to an untimely end.

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2CHRONICLES 25: 28 They brought him on horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

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