

## Royal Lessons for Life

# Amaziah

(Judah)

### Amaziah's Biography

- Amaziah begins his reign at age 25 and reigns for 29 years – II Kings 14:2
- His first acts are to strengthen the kingdom after the turbulent final days of his father Joash.
  - He had to establish his own control over the kingdom – II Samuel 14:5, II Chronicles 25:3
  - He executes his father's assassins (but not their children as was prescribed in Deuteronomy 24:16) – II Kings 14:5-6, II Chronicles 25:3-4
  - He reorganizes the army of 300,000 men – II Chronicles 25:5
- He wages war to reconquer Edom, which had rebelled ~55 years prior under his grandfather Jehoram – II Kings 8:20-22, II Chronicles 21:8-10
  - He hires 100,000 mercenaries from Israel – II Chronicles 25:6
    - The pay is 100 talents of silver, which is about \$3.6 million total. This works out to be 3 shekels each, which is about \$36. There must have been a down payment with a promise of additional pay from the spoils of the coming campaign.
  - An unnamed prophet warns against using the mercenaries and they are dismissed – II Chronicles 25:7-10
  - He wins a decisive victory against the Edomites in the Valley of Salt slaying 10,000 in battle and executes 10,000 POWs. The capital of Selah (now called Petra) is taken – II Kings 14:7, II Chronicles 25:11-12
  - The dismissed mercenaries plunder towns in northern Judah, killing 3,000 men – II Chronicles 25:13
  - Amaziah captures the gods/idols of the Edomites and begins worshipping them – II Chronicles 25:14-16
- Emboldened by the successful campaign against Edom, he then provokes war against king Jehoash and Israel – II Kings 14:8-14, II Chronicles 25:17-24
  - He challenges Israel to battle – II Kings 14:8-10, II Chronicles 25:17-19
  - Judah is soundly defeated at Bethshemesh and Jerusalem is spoiled – II Kings 14:11-14, II Chronicles 25:20-24
- He is assassinated by conspirators after fleeing from Jerusalem to Lachish – II Kings 14:19-20, II Chronicles 25:27-28
- His son Azariah/Uzziah is then made king – II Kings 14:21, II Chronicles 26:1

### Lessons from the Life of Amaziah

- Amaziah is another case of beginning well but finishing badly – II Chronicles 25:26
- He is also a warning against being lifted up with pride – Proverbs 16:18