

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Chronicles Chapters 23-25 8/31-9/1/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221
NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: **07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS** Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: **07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS** Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

LAST WEEK: **2 Chronicles Chapter 20** – Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir Defeated; The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign. **Chapter 21** – Jehoram Reigns in Judah; **Chapter 22** – **Ahaziah** Reigns in Judah; Athaliah Reigns in Judah; Kills all known kingly heirs, except Joash.

THIS WEEK: Chapter 23 – **Joash** Crowned King of Judah – (vs. 1-11); Death of Athaliah – (vs. 12-21). **Chapter 24** – Joash Repairs the Temple – (vs. 1-14); Apostasy of Joash, kills Jehoiada's son – (vs. 15-22); Death of Joash – (vs. 23-27). **Chapter 25** – **Amaziah** Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-4); The War Against Edom, Amaziah brings back Edomite gods – (vs. 5-16); Israel Defeats Judah – (vs. 17-24); Death of Amaziah – (vs. 25-28).

- **(Mat 1:8-10) Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot (Ahaziah, Joash, Amaziah are omitted!) Uzziah. [9] Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. [10] Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.**

Joash Made King –

2Ch 23:1 *In the seventh year* (following the six year reign of Athaliah) **Jehoiada strengthened himself, and made a covenant with the captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri.**

- **In the seventh year, after Athaliah, the daughter of Jezebel, assumed the position of queen and reigned over the land for six years, Jehoiada the priest strengthened himself. He took the captains of the hundreds, calling them to come and make a covenant.**

- Jehoiada said, “Look we have a descendant of David that God promised the throne. This wicked woman she belongs to the north, and God has promised it to David. So, he caused them to make a covenant. He revealed, “Look I’ve got this little seven-year-old boy; he is the rightful heir to the throne.”

2Ch 23:2 *And they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the chief fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.*

- They did not tell them about the fact that the boy was alive, but you need to come to Jerusalem because we have some news that the high priest wants to tell us about. So the elders came from all around the land

2Ch 23:3 *Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has said of the sons of David.*

- The people must have really been excited as they realize God's word is true after six years of looking like it had been disproven. Here he is! *Behold, the king's sons shall reign as the LORD has said of sons of David.*

2Ch 23:4 *This is what you shall do: One-third of you entering on the Sabbath, of the priests and the Levites, shall be keeping watch over the doors;*

- You will be the guards at the door of the temple, a third of you.

2Ch 23:5-7 *one-third shall be at the king's house; and one-third at the Gate of the Foundation (probably a side gate of the palace). All the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD. [6] But let no one come into the house of the LORD except the priests and those of the Levites who serve. They may go in, for they are holy; but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. [7] And the Levites shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes into the house, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.*

- Jehoiada is the spiritual leader of the nation, but he has good skills in terms of setting up a military plan here. He wants to unveil the king, but the problem is to provide protection for the new seven-year-old king. Athaliah has a lot of power in the military in her hands.

2Ch 23:8 *So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And each man took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest had not dismissed the divisions.*

- Jehoiada finds a way of doing it on the Sabbath day when there are the greatest number of godly people at the temple. He is going to do it when the Levites are changing shifts. He said, “We will do it right then because our numbers will be doubled at a time when no one will suspect anything.”

2Ch 23:9 *And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of God.*

- He arms them for this. They have the authority of the LORD related to what they are going to do here.

2Ch 23:10 *Then he set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and by the temple, all around the king.*

- They surrounded the place, on both sides. Here was this little seven-year-old boy, standing in the special place of honor for the king to stand, within the temple. He is surrounded by these guards, armed, with the armor that came from the days of David.
- Joash, this seven-year-old king is surrounded by the toughest guys in Judah. You are not going to get through them to kill that king, because of the promise of God related to this. Athaliah does not have a handful of men on her side that can compare to the godly convictions of these men.

2Ch 23:11 *And they brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the Testimony, and made him king. Then Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, "Long live the king!"*

- They unveiled him as the king, putting a crown on him, and then giving him the Testimony, a copy of the law of Moses. He is going to reign, keeping the law of Moses as the standard for the land.
- Then Jehoiada and his sons anointed him with oil and said, “Long live the king!” Everybody starts to shout! The lineage of David; God's promises are not dead. The promise of the Messiah is not dead. So what excitement!
- **And made him king! When we have the right King on the throne, all else falls into its proper place. When I get the vertical right, the horizontal falls into place. How solid, strong, and fruitful are both dimensions in my life? What areas need improvement?**

2Ch 23:12-14 *Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. [13] When she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, also the singers with musical instruments, and those who led in praise. So Athaliah tore her clothes and said, "Treason! Treason!" [14] And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of*

hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not kill her in the house of the LORD."

- “Take her out of the range of the temple. Anybody who tries to support her, kill them, and slay her with the sword outside.”

2Ch 23:15 So they seized her; and she went by way of the entrance of the Horse Gate into the king's house, and they killed her there.

- She had also led the nation into idolatry, all capital crimes under the law of Moses. She was executed in accordance with the law of Moses.
- **This evil reign of hers comes to an end. Here she looks like she has all her bases covered** and evil under her is just going to prevail for generations in the southern kingdom of Judah. **Evil sows the seed for its own destruction.** Evil cannot proceed and progress indefinitely. because it is a parasite. It destroys everything that it attaches itself to. It has to end up collapsing under its own weight, giving way to something that is virtuous.

Jehoiada's Reforms – 2Ch 23:16 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people.

- Here again is hope. With a spiritual reform. The nation had sunk through the wicked influence of the two previous kings, Jehoram and Ahaziah. They had been defeated by their enemies. So a new covenant, a renewal of their commitment to the LORD. “We will be the LORD’s people.”
- **This is the kind of a commitment we all need to make** and renew over time. That covenant to be God’s man, God’s woman, God’s people. “We are going to serve the LORD. We are going to keep Him first in our lives.” Righteousness exalts a nation; sin is a reproach to any people.
- **There are many parallels between the nation of Israel, and the United States.** As we see the decline, as we see the turning away from God by the nation that was founded and established by God, established as God’s people, but as they began to turn away from God, the calamities and tragedies that had begun to come.

2Ch 23:17 And all the people went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

- *Then all the people went to the house of Baal, the temple that Athaliah had built near the temple of God. That horrible profaning of the things of God, right there near the courts of the LORD! They killed Mattan the priest of Baal. They wiped out this horrible pagan religion.*

2Ch 23:18 Also Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to the hand of the priests, the Levites, whom David had assigned in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was established by David.

- So he reinstituted the worship in the temple, that had declined under the wicked reign of Ahaziah and Athaliah. Now he restores the order of the priests; he restores the sacrifices; and he restores the temple worship; the singing and the praises as they offered their sacrifices unto God!
- **For six years there had been no worship, singing, and praising God in the temple! Think of that! How important and wonderful is it to me to meet with the body of Christ and to actively participate in worshipping, singing, and praising my Lord?**

23:19 And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that no one who was in any way unclean should enter.

- The guards that were there. None who were unclean could enter into the temple precincts.

2Ch 23:20 Then he took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from the house of the LORD; and they went through the Upper Gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom.

- This little seven-year-old boy, the last living descendant who was not slain, because he was hidden by the nurse, was now established as king. Joash is now sitting upon the throne, crowned king.

2Ch 23:21 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

- Peace had come. A quietness and a time of prosperity. Unfortunately, as we will discover in the next chapter, when Jehoiada died, his influence over Joash ceased, and somehow Joash turned away from the LORD. He did not follow through on the spiritual reforms. Thus God allowed them to be overthrown by Syria, a weaker force.
- **All the people rejoiced and the city was quiet! How much rejoicing, quiet, and peace am I reflecting in my life? Is it noticeably different from that of an unbeliever? If so, how much?**

Joash Repairs the Temple –

2Ch 24:1-2 Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. [2] Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

- As long as Jehoiada lived, he raised Joash and was the primary spiritual influence in Joash's life. During that time, Joash was faithful to the LORD and was a good king.

2Ch 24:3-5 And Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters. [4] Now it happened after this that Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD. [5] Then he gathered the priests and the Levites, and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah, and gather from all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that you do it quickly." However the Levites did not do it quickly. Joash seeing the temple of God in a state of disrepair feels that they should repair it. The one claim-to-fame that Joash has, the one thing that is really ascribed to him is that he refurbished and rebuilt the temple and re-established temple worship. That was the great thing that he did in his life.

2Ch 24:6-7 So the king called Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD and of the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?" [7] For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also presented all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD to the Baals.

- The wicked sons, under Athaliah, the princes of the land, had damaged the house of the LORD, using it to build the temple to Baalim.

2Ch 24:8-10 Then at the king's command they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the house of the LORD. [9] And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God had imposed on Israel in the wilderness. [10] Then all the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought their contributions, and put them into the chest until all had given.

- It is interesting when people are given opportunity, they always respond in their desire to develop a place to worship God. In the wilderness when Moses was going to build the tabernacle, he announced to the people of Israel to bring in your gold and the silver, your offerings, that we might build this tabernacle to the LORD." The people gave in such abundance, that they finally had to say, "No more!"

2Ch 24:11 So it was, at that time, when the chest was brought to the king's official by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, that the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it and returned it to its place. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

- Every evening, they would deposit the money in the treasury, setting the chest out there again for offerings
- 2Ch 24:12-14 The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also those who worked in iron and bronze to restore the house of the LORD. [13] So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it. [14] When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; they made from it articles for the house of the LORD, articles for serving and offering, spoons and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.*

- Temple worship was restored and the temple itself was restored. There was an outward spiritual movement.
- 2Ch 24:15-16 But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died. [16] And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.*

- *Full of days.* This term is used for only five men in the Bible: Abraham, Isaac, David, Job, and Jehoiada.
- That is a great commendation for the man. "he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house." Jehoiada, as a priest, had an influence for good upon the nation that is usually reserved for a king. He did it by being a righteous man and being faithful to what God had called him to do.
- **What a great exhortation and example Jehoiada is for each of us! Although we may not be called to be a king, president, or national leader, we are to be righteous and faithful to what God has called us to do! How is my life testimony doing in regard to this?**

2Ch 24:17 Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them.

- **Joash evidently was a weak man, easily influenced.** As long as Jehoiada was alive, exercising spiritual influence over him, he did well. They initiated the spiritual reforms. They had instituted afresh the worship in the house of God. But as soon as Jehoiada died, the princes of Judah came to him, and bowed down to him, requesting that they be allowed to again establish the worship of Ashtoreth, and idols!
- **Notice that these evil men were lurking, waiting for Jehoiada to die.** As long as that man is alive and influential in this nation and in that king's life, you might as well not even bother approaching that king. We have no hope of success. Now, this great influence is stripped away. When the influence is gone, you can prepare yourself to be tested by the devil to find out whether the decisions that you have been making all along under their influence is merely their decisions or whether those are also your convictions. There will always be that time of testing. Do you have your own relationship, your own convictions related to God? Joash fails the test!
2Ch 24:18-19 Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass. [19] Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.
- **At the death of Jehoiada, there was an immediate spiritual nose-dive.** It is strange how that the people can often be serving God on the surface, but in their hearts there is still idolatry. We have seen, even in our lifetime, certain spiritual movements.
- **As soon as the movement passed, so many fell right back into the old patterns of the old life and began to worship their idols once again.**

Joash's Treachery - 2Ch 24:20 Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.'

- **Why do something in which you can never prosper?"** Jesus said, (Mat 16:26a) *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?* Going after worldliness can never bring you spiritual prosperity. "Why would you do it?" **"Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you."**

2Ch 24:21 So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.

- **As this prophet, Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, prophesied against what the people were doing, this king Joash, who had instituted the spiritual reforms and all, ordered him to be stoned to death by the people!**

2Ch 24:22 Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, "The LORD look on it, and repay!"

- **May God have the final say in this wickedness that you have done.** Joash owed everything to that man. He owed his life, his prosperity, his position, he owed everything to Jehoiada, the chief priest. Then he kills his son for speaking the truth from the mouth of God. What a despicable human being.

Joash Assassinated - 2Ch 24:23 So it happened in the spring of the year that the army of Syria came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the leaders of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

- **That spiritual decline, and at the end of the year.** These princes that had come to the king and asked that they might again reinstitute the worship of the Ashore, were killed by the Syrians. They sent all of the spoil of them unto Damascus. The LORD did require it of them.

2Ch 24:24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the LORD delivered a very great army (of Judah) into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

- **God caused Judah to be defeated despite the fact that the invading army was very small in order to make it very clear that this was God's judgment.**
- **It is always true if you forsake God, He will forsake you, and God forsook them.** Thus, a small band of Syrians was able to overtake them and to take the spoil and carry it back to Damascus.

2Ch 24:25 And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died. And they buried him in the City of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

- **Here is a man that had every opportunity to go down in history as one of the great kings.** He grew up under the influence of Jehoiada the priest, re-established the temple worship. But at the death of Jehoiada, the old nature began to reveal itself. Thus he is not even buried in a place of honor.

2Ch 24:26 These are the ones who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabite.

- We are not given these names in the Kings account. We do note the foreign mothers here.
2Ch 24:27 Now concerning his sons, and the many oracles about him, and the repairing of the house of God, indeed they are written in the annals of the book of the kings. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.
- God has given us these details for particular reasons. Regarding Joash, when you look at the genealogy of Jesus Christ, he is one of three kings that are omitted. This apparently so grieved the heart of God. Though the bloodline of David was preserved, his name is not included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.
- *(Mat 1:8-10) Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot (Ahaziah, Joash, Amaziah are omitted!) Uzziah. [9] Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. [10] Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.*

Amaziah Reigns in Judah - 2Ch 25:1-2 *Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, 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 sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal (complete) heart.*

- God takes note. Amaziah did what was right. He was a good man, but not perfectly.
2Ch 25:3 Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established for him, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.
- Whenever you have an assassination, there was always that turmoil, and it takes some time for the new government to really get entrenched. You do not know who your friends and your enemies are.
2Ch 25:4 However he did not execute their children, but did as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall die for his own sin."
- This was commendable on his part. At that time in the pagan world would not only kill the fathers, but all of the children and the bloodline lest they grow up bitter and then end up leading some kind of a rebellion. To Amaziah's credit, he was faithful to the LORD here early in his reign.

Amaziah's Victories - 2Ch 25:5-6 *Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together and set over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, according to their fathers' houses, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, able to go to war, who could handle spear and shield. [6] He also hired one hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for one hundred talents of silver.*

- Amaziah had an army of three hundred thousand men, when he drafted all of the able-bodied men. He feels that this force is too small for what he wants to accomplish. So he hired an extra 100,000 experienced kind of mercenary skilled soldiers in order to attack the Edomites.
2Ch 25:7 But a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of the children of Ephraim."
- Do not partner up with people that are not walking with the LORD. You do not need to partner up with them.
2Ch 25:8 But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow."
- "Do not take these fellows with you. If you do, God will let you fall before the enemy. Because God can help you, and God can let you down." Very true.
2Ch 25:9 Then Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this!"
- The man of God told Amaziah to cut his losses and trust the LORD. The king obeyed and sent the Israelite mercenaries home in anger.
- **This is an important point to remember! Whatever the cost of obedience, it is always ultimately cheaper than the cost of disobedience! "The LORD is able to give you much more than this!"**

2Ch 25:10 So Amaziah discharged the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go back home. Therefore their anger was greatly aroused against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

- These troops did not like being dismissed. They were anxious to go into battle. In those days you always took the spoils from the enemy. They were probably hoping to get much more than just what they were paid.
2Ch 25:11-12 Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed ten thousand of the people of Seir (Edomites.) [12] Also the children of Judah took captive ten

thousand alive, brought them to the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were dashed in pieces.

- They took them up on the cliff and just tossed them all over. What a horrible thing, but war is war. It is so horrible. The cruelty of man to man seems greater than we see in the animal kingdom. It is hard to understand. **2Ch 25:13** But as for the soldiers of the army which Amaziah had discharged, so that they would not go with him to battle, they raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon, killed three thousand in them, and took much spoil.
- They decided they were going to get it, one way or another.

Amaziah's Idolatry - 2Ch 25:14 Now it was so, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

- How in the world can a person turn his back upon the living God and do such a thing? How is it that a person would bow to an idol? Having destroyed the Edomites, now he brings back their gods, and he bows down to their gods and worships them. They were worshiping the gods of fertility. They were worshiping them with licentious, sexual rights. They were worshiping the gods of power, money, and of intellect!
- There is a tremendous draw in the heart of man for power; for money; for sexual pleasures. These were the gods of the heathen that they were turning to, just giving themselves over to sex, money, and power.
- **Amaziah turned to the false, defeated gods of the Edomites. Today, these are the very gods that people turn to when they turn from following Jesus Christ or turn from the true and the living God. How rock-solid is my resistance to turning away to idols?**

2Ch 25:15 Therefore the anger of the LORD was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?"

- Their gods were defeated! Evidently they are empty, not powerful at all! Why would you forsake the living God, and follow after these gods?"

2Ch 25:16 So it was, as he talked with him, that the king said to him, "Have we made you the king's counselor? Cease! Why should you be killed?" Then the prophet ceased, and said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice."

- In other words, "If you do not shut up man, you are going to get it. You are going to be killed. Then the prophet stopped speaking, ending with "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice." You have picked your path. It is destruction.

Israel Defeats Amaziah - 2Ch 25:17 Now Amaziah king of Judah asked advice and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle."

- This is a declaration of war by Joash after he defeated the Edomites. He now wants to take on the northern kingdom of Israel. His heart is lifted up in pride following the defeat of the Edomites.

2Ch 25:18 And 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 wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

- Joash, king of Israel response with a parable. The thistle was Amaziah, the cedar tree was Joash, and the desire to have his daughter as the husband's bride was setting himself on an equal, with Joash. But Joash said to Amaziah, "A wild animal came by, and knocked over and trampled the thistle." "You are nothing man!"

2Ch 25:19 Indeed you say that you have defeated the Edomites, and your heart is lifted up to boast. Stay at home now; why should you meddle with trouble, that you should fall—you and Judah with you?"

- So the king of Israel is trying to conciliate him. He does not really want to go to war. He is saying, Amaziah, you have had victory over the Edomites, be satisfied man! You think you are tough. You really better just stay home and enjoy and savor the victory that you have. If you meddle, you are going to get hurt.
- **Why should you or I meddle with trouble? A great question.** Surely it is a question that we should consider anytime we are tempted to meddle around with sin. How many times are we tempted just to mess around with sinful pleasures, to dabble in the area of sin? Things that can destroy us.

2Ch 25:20-24 But Amaziah would not heed, for it came from God, that He might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought the gods of Edom. [21] So Joash king of Israel went out; and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah. [22] And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent. [23] Then Joash the king of Israel captured Amaziah king

of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh; and he brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—four hundred cubits. [24] And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of God with Obed-Edom, the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

- **Joash, first of all lost part of his defenses.** Six hundred feet of the wall was broken down. Then he lost his treasures, and then the people were taken captive. Thus it is often the result of meddling.
- **It is an amazing thing how that the drugs attack, first of all your will to resist.** The moment you introduce drugs into your system; they begin to attack that area of your brain that gives you the capacity of resisting. Once they destroy your resisting power, you quickly become bound by your appetites.
- **But thank God, Jesus Christ came, to set at liberty those that were captive,** and to open the prison house to those that are bound! The power of Jesus Christ can break the hold that Satan has on your life. That is what the gospel is all about, freeing people from the power of darkness.

2Ch 25:25-28 Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. [26] Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, indeed are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel? [27] After the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there. [28] Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.

- **So, Amaziah was also assassinated. It did not really pay to have a losing record as a king.** People did not appreciate that! They assassinated a king after a defeat in battle. So here he was victorious over the Edomites, everybody was praising him. He picks a fight with Joash; he starts to meddle around in spite of the fact that he was warned not to. But, a man who will not listen to God, usually will not listen to anybody else.
- **Now, the king warns him, “Don’t meddle,” he will not listen to the king.** Headstrong people can get into trouble. **How important it is that we learn to listen to God, and heed** what He says!

SUMMARY:

- **2Ch 23:11 And made him king!** When we have the right King on the throne, all else falls into its proper place. When I get the vertical right, the horizontal falls into place. How solid, strong, and fruitful are both dimensions in my life? What areas need improvement?
- **2Ch 23:18 For six years there had been no worship, singing and praising God in the temple! Think of that!** How important and wonderful is it to me to meet with the body of Christ and to actively participate in worshipping, singing, and praising my Lord?
- **2Ch 23:21 All the people rejoiced and the city was quiet! How much rejoicing, quiet, and peace am I reflecting in my life?** Is it noticeably different from that of an unbeliever? If so, how much?
- **2Ch 24:15-16 What a great exhortation and example Jehoiada is for each of us!** Although we may not be called to be a king, president, or national leader, we are to be righteous and faithful to what God has called us to do! How is my life testimony doing in regard to this?
- **2Ch 25:9 This is such an important point for us to remember! Whatever the cost of obedience,** it is always ultimately cheaper than disobedience! *“The LORD is able to give you much more than this!”*
- **2Ch 25:14 Amaziah turned to the false, defeated gods of the Edomites.** Today, these are the very gods that people turn to when they turn from following Jesus Christ or turn from the true and the living God. How rock-solid is my resistance to turning away to idols?

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS – sung by Jadon Lavik (2:34/2:37)

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow; though none go with me, still I will follow;

though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

The cross before me; the world behind me; the cross before me; the world behind me

the cross before me; the world behind me, no turning back, no turning back.

No turning back, no turning back

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Chronicles, Chapters 26-28