



Crusader Arrogance of Joash's Assassins; Amaziah Ascends the Throne, Imports Idolatry, & Is Defeated by Jehoash; Pivot Power of Jehoiada & Jehosheba

2 Kings 12:21 -For Jozacar \jōz' a-kar\ the son of Shimeath \shim' e-ath\, and Jehozabad \je-hōz' a-bad\ the son of Shomar \shō' mer\, his servants, struck him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Amaziah his son became king in his place.

- 1) The assassins' motivation to kill Joash was the king's complicity in the murder of Zechariah. Apparently there were those among the population who had not forgotten the excellent Zeitgeist that existed under Joash when Jehoiada was his top advisor.
- 2) The murder of Jehoiada's grandson no doubt prompted a public backlash among the faithful against Joash and it developed into crusader arrogance in the two assassins.
- 3) Nothing good ever comes from assassination. Joash was succeeded by his son Amaziah \am-a-zī' a\. Meet the new boss; same as the old boss.
- 4) Amaziah's first act of business as the new king was to have the assassins executed:

2 Kings 14:5 - Now it came about, as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his hand, that Amaziah killed his servants who had slain the king his father.

- 5) Amaziah realized academically that Judah's military was in disarray following its shocking defeat by an inferior force from Aram. He next conducted a census and discovered he had a force of 300,000 choice men twenty years of age and over.
- 6) This was a much smaller army than served under Jehoshaphat but Judah had been engaged in a number of wars since then and the defeat by the Arameans had taken a heavy toll.
- 7) Nevertheless, Amaziah was determined to reestablish access to the southern trade routes which was lost when the Edomites revolted during the reign of Jehoram. He soundly defeated them in a campaign that saw battles at the Valley of Salt at the southern end of the Dead Sea, and at Sela, an Edomite fortress built into the walls of a mountain.
- 8) The Edomites, as seemingly every nation in the area, were heavily involved in idolatry. Astonishingly, after having seen the divine wrath of Jehovah upon his father Joash's involvement with the Baal cult, Amaziah made a dreadful decision:

2 Chronicles 25:14 - Now it came about after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites that he brought the gods of the sons of Seir, set them up as his gods, bowed down before them, and burned incense to them.

v.15 - Then the anger of the Lord burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people who have not delivered their own people from your hand?"

- 9) The tragic flaw of virtually all the kings of Israel and Judah is an affinity for idolatry imported from the heathen religions of the nations around them. If progressives were theologians they would insist that it was a genetic disease.
- 10) It is not genetic except in the sense that the sinful nature is inherited. But the sinful nature comes equipped with an area of strength manifest by human good and evil, an area of weakness that causes a trend to sin, and a lust pattern that is characterized by a multiplicity of desires that seek to aggrandize the flesh.



- 11) All sinful natures are the same but each individual makes choices as to which expressions of human good and evil to pursue, which sins to commit, and which lust patters to indulge.
- 12) Nevertheless, certain manifestations of the sinful nature may be facilitated by the inculcation of demonic viewpoint at an early age so that the child becomes brain-ingrained. This is quite possible in the case for Amaziah who grew up watching his father, Joash, indulge the worship of Baal.
- 13) But Joash was not so instructed by Jehoiada who led him down paths of righteousness for his first 30 years of his life. Joash was a weak man. He was easily manipulated into compromise by the politicians in Judah which led him into idolatry, the ultimate expression of human good and evil.
- 14) While Jehoiada was living, Joash's decision-making was based on doctrine, during which time he received a positive KER. Following the death of Jehoiada, Joash entered into reversionism and died the sin unto death at the hands of assassins.
- 15) When Jehoiada died the doctrinal inventory of Judah suffered a brain-drain. Deprived of Jehoiada's divine viewpoint, Joash went through a seventeen-year period of brain-change. During this time, Joash's son, Amaziah, was being brain-ingrained.
- 16) Those brain-ingrained with human viewpoint, human good, and evil also develop an inflated opinion of self accompanied by self-righteous arrogance and motivated by power lust.
- 17) Following his slaughter of the Edomites, Amaziah got it into his mind that he was a military genius. He challenged Jehoash, king of Israel, to do battle at Beth-shemesh \beth-sh□' mesh\. Amaziah should have stayed home.
- 18) The army of Judah was defeated, Amaziah was captured by Jehoash, the city of Jerusalem was invaded, and the treasures of the Temple were taken.
- 19) The succession of the kings of Judah following the death of Amaziah continued until the fifth cycle of discipline inflicted by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. resulted in the Babylonian Captivity.
- 20) This succession of kings of Judah from Amaziah, son of Joash, to the regime of Hezekiah looks like this:

Amaziah:	796-767 B.C.	2 Kings 14:1-2
Azariah:	767-740	2 Kings 15:1-2
Jotham:	740-732	2 Kings 15:32-33
Ahaz:	732-716	2 Kings 16:1-2
Hezekiah:	716-687	2 Kings 18:1-2
- 21) The line of Christ continued because of two people who had a maximum inventory of doctrine circulating in their souls: Jehoiada, the high priest who sequestered the child-prince Joash, and his wife Jehosheba who saved the child from Athaliah's attempted regicide of the entire royal family.
- 22) This entire study of the kings of Israel and Judah is a classic illustration of the consistent failure of power politics. In almost every instance the king in question used his power to manipulate history in opposition to the directive will of God, establishment truth, and the ritual plan of God for believers.
- 23) Coordinating these events were ambassador demons whose hidden agenda was to sever of the line of Christ and bring about the premature conclusion to the appeal trial of Satan.



- 24) The battle throughout the 135-year period from the division of the kingdom to the reign of Amaziah was between pivot politics and power politics.