

The Lord Is Able to Give You Much More

Second Chronicles 25–26

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • February 6, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Bryan Rich – Second Chronicles 25.7–9

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

Persuasion:

I. Second Chronicles 25.1–2 • Not Having a Loyal Heart

25.1 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 heart.

A. Twenty-nine years is a long time to rule a nation, but

1. that means he died when he was only 54.
2. We will find out why he died so young, and
 - a) it is not good.

B. Again, notice the way Ezra told us about the reign of Amaziah.

1. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but
2. when Ezra added
 - a) that Amaziah did not do those things with a loyal heart,
 - b) we find out that something was amiss.

C. He did what was right, but

1. because he did not have a loyal heart,
2. his heart led him to do something
 - a) that we would never expect to happen.

II. Second Chronicles 25.3–4 • Do What Is Right

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. 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.”

- A. He immediately took care of the assassins of his father.
- B. He was even careful to follow the Law of Moses
 - 1. in not putting the children of the assassins to death,
 - 2. which to me implies that someone probably wanted them executed, but
 - a) he objected because of what the Law of Moses said.
 - b) Did you know that the United States Constitution has something similar?

III. Second Chronicles 25.5–6 • Build Up Your Forces

5 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.

- A. Remember two weeks ago,
 - 1. that I showed how the Lord allowed the Syrians
 - 2. to defeat the army of Judah, because
 - a) of the sins of Joash.
- B. So the army had been decimated.
 - 1. Now, Amaziah had to build it back up.
 - 2. He even hired 100,000 from Israel in the north
 - a) for 100 talents of silver,
 - b) which is the equivalent of
- C. However, hiring soldiers from Israel was a mistake.

IV. Second Chronicles 25.7–8 • **Do Not Use People Who Are Out of Favor with God**

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. 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.”

A. Did Amaziah consult anyone, in particular a prophet first?

B. Amaziah sought to follow the Lord, but

1. Israel did not.

2. Surely Amaziah was aware of that fact.

a) Yet, he saw that his army was not large enough and

b) probably not trained enough or experienced enough.

(1) So why not hire your brethren in the north?

(2) The problem was Israel was not faithful to the Lord.

C. Consider the wisdom of Solomon:

1. Proverbs 11.14

**Where there is no counsel, the people fall;
But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.**

2. Proverbs 12.15

**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But he who heeds counsel is wise.**

3. Proverbs 15.22

**Without counsel, plans go awry,
But in the multitude of counselors they are established.**

4. Proverbs 19.20

**Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
That you may be wise in your latter days.
There are many plans in a man's heart,
Nevertheless the LORD'S counsel—that will stand.**

5. Proverbs 21.30

**There is no wisdom or understanding
Or counsel against the LORD.**

6. Proverbs 24.6

**For by wise counsel you will wage your own war,
And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.**

7. You may never have a situation like Amaziah's, but

a) still learn from him and

b) learn from Solomon,

(1) the wisdom of consulting with wise men and women.

D. Interestingly, the man of God told Amaziah

1. that if he still wanted to go into battle,

2. that he should give his all, because

a) God was going to make him fall, since

b) God has the ability to help us or overthrow us.

V. Second Chronicles 25.9 • Remember What the Lord Can Do

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."

A. You can see what Amaziah is thinking.

1. We put out a lot of money to hire the soldiers from Israel.
2. I can't just go and ask for the money back.
3. So what am I supposed to do since I will be losing so much?

B. Then the man of God made a statement

1. that I often quote to myself,
2. that the Lord is able to give you much more than this.
 - a) One hundred talents of silver is nothing to the Lord.
 - b) He owns the earth.
 - (1) He owns the universe.
 - (2) Do not worry about such trifling things.
 - (a) You do what is right and
 - (b) he will see to it that you will have everything you need,
 - i) even if at first you suffer loss.
 - ii) Remember who your God is.

VI. Second Chronicles 25.10 • Prepare for Anger

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.

A. Here was the first way that Amaziah suffered:

B. He angered the troops from Israel.

VII. Second Chronicles 25.11–12 • Carry Out Justice

11 Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed ten thousand of the people of Seir. 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.

A. Even without the 100,000 troops of Israel,

B. Amaziah could accomplish what the Lord wanted done.

VIII. Second Chronicles 25.13 • You Will Suffer for Following the Lord

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.

A. Here was the second way that Amaziah suffered:

B. The troops from Israel

1. raided cities in Judah,
2. killed 3,000 men of Judah, and
3. took spoil.

C. Yes, the Lord is able to give us much more than what we have lost, but

1. in the meantime, we will lose more than just, in this case, money, but
2. also people.

D. Either Amaziah would have lost much more in a battle with Israel at his side, or

1. he would lose the money and
2. in this case, 3,000 men.
 - a) He would lose either way.
 - b) However, he did the right thing, and
 - (1) the Lord would have compensated him for his losses, but
 - (2) watch what Amaziah did next.

IX. Second Chronicles 25.14–16 • Why Use Failed Systems?

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. 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?” 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.”

A. We have seen this before and

1. it baffled us, or at least it baffled me.
2. What are people thinking?
 - a) Amaziah seemed to believe in the ability of God
 - b) when the man of God told him that the Lord could give him much more than 100 talents of silver.

B. How then could he embrace the gods of the people he just defeated?

C. In fact, that is what a prophet said to him,

1. why would he seek the gods of the people
2. who could not help its people against Amaziah and Judah?

D. Instead, Amaziah challenged the prophet,

1. threatening to kill him, but
2. the prophet declared that the Lord would destroy Amaziah for what he had done and for failing to take the prophet’s advice.

X. Second Chronicles 25.17–19 • Be Careful Whom You Challenge

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.” 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. 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?”

A. Meaning and application of the fable.

B. Amaziah won a battle and

1. he became arrogant,
 2. thinking that he could now defeat anyone.
- C. Initially, he hired 100,000 troops from Israel,
1. then he wanted to fight Israel.
 2. He did something successfully.
 - a) So he thought he could do whatever he wanted to do successfully.
 - b) However, it does not work that way when you stray from the Lord.

XI. Second Chronicles 25.20–26 • Suffer for Doing Wrong

20 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. 25 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?

- A. But earlier we saw that we shall suffer for doing what is right.
1. Yet, here we learn that we will suffer for doing what is wrong.
 2. The point is, we will suffer in this life.
 - a) Do you want to suffer for doing what is wrong?
 - b) Or do you want to suffer for doing what is right?
- B. They faced one another at Beth Shemesh.
1. Here are some slides from the area.
 2. The temple where we dug was there during these days.

C. Amaziah feared losing 100 talents of silver, but

1. for this disloyalty to the Lord,
2. he lost so much more.

XII. Second Chronicles 25.27–28 • Cannot Escape Justice

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.

A. Sadly, some conspired to get Amaziah, but

B. he escape.

1. However, not for long because
2. they found him and they executed him.

C. He should have been one of the great kings of Judah...

XIII. Second Chronicles 26.1–5 • Seeking the Lord Brings Prosperity

26.1 Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. 2 He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers. 3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. 4 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 5 He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

A. With the early death of Amaziah,

1. his son became king at 16 years old.
2. He did better than his father,
 - a) although he did make one glaring error
 - b) that left him unable to rule the kingdom.

B. Verse 5 states what is a major theme in the Bible:

1. Seek the Lord,
2. experience prosperity.

XIV. Second Chronicles 26.6–10 • God Helps His People

6 Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities around Ashdod and among the Philistines. 7 God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites. 8 Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong. 9 And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them. 10 Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; he also had farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for he loved the soil.

- A. He prospered by being able to restore Elath (v. 2), and
- B. by being able to defeat the enemy.
1. He became very strong as a king.
 2. They honored him from the surrounding nations.
- C. Verse 10 says that he loved the soil.
1. I also love the soil.
 2. It is like working with the word of God,
 - a) good things come from it
 - b) when you use it for the purposes for which God created it.

XV. Second Chronicles 26.11–15 • God and Man Help the Righteous

11 Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. 12 The total number of chief officers of the mighty men of valor was two thousand six hundred. 13 And under their authority was an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. 14 Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast

stones. 15 And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.

A. His army became so large

1. that the number of chief officers over the mighty men of valor
2. was 2,600,
 - a) who over 307,500 troops and
 - b) they could make war with mighty power.

B. They also invented war machines.

C. He truly prospered and brought peace to Judah.

XVI. Second Chronicles 26.16–18 • Do Not Let Your Heart Be Lifted Up

16 But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD—valiant men. 18 And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God.”

A. I am sure that you were expecting something to happen.

B. He was strong and prosperous, and

1. he thought that he could do whatever he wanted, but
2. it was to his destruction.

C. He entered the temple of the Lord,

1. going clear into the Holy Place and
2. went right to the altar of incense.
 - a) He evidently thought that he could ignore the Lord’s commands and
 - b) it would be okay, because he was obviously successful.

D. See the priest go after Uzziah,

1. along with 80 others joining him, for
2. the king did not have jurisdiction but
 - a) the priests of God did.
 - b) They valiant men made a brave stand by opposing him.

E. They told him exactly what he needed to hear.

XVII. Second Chronicles 26.19–20 • Run from Sin

19 Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him.

A. Uzziah still not realizing what he had done,

1. grew in anger against these priests and then
2. the Lord stepped in and gave him leprosy,
 - a) starting on his forehead
 - b) so that all could see the penalty for violating God's orders.

B. Therefore, the priests immediately got him out of there, and

1. they had help, for
2. the king himself got out of there quickly.

XVIII. Second Chronicles 26.21–23 • Do Not Let Your End Be a Sad One

21 King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. 22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote. 23 So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the kings, for they said, "He is a leper." Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

- A. The leprosy stayed with him until he died.
- B. It would have spread to other parts of his body.
 - 1. He had live alone.
 - 2. Perhaps he did some serious soul-searching during this time.
- C. Since he could not have any contact with people,
 - 1. his son Jotham started doing the work of a king.
 - 2. Finally, he died in shame.

Exhortation: