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YouTube Prayer Link

Our high places and golden calves

2 Kings chapter 14

2 Kings 14 begins with Amaziah, the son of Joash, ruling the kingdom of Judah. Amaziah is described as doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord, but he does not remove the high places where people continue to offer sacrifices and burn incense.

Amaziah went to war with the Edomites and won a great victory, but he later waged a battle against Jehoash, king of Israel. Joash responded with a parable, warning Amaziah not to boast of his victory over the Edomites or to provoke a war with Israel.

Amaziah ignored Joash's warnings, continued the battle and was defeated. Joash captured him, demolished part of the walls of Jerusalem, and plundered the temple and palace.

After Joash's death, his son Jeroboam II became king of Israel. He reigned forty-one years, and did evil in the sight of the Lord. However, he succeeded in restoring Israel's borders and expanding its territory.

The chapter concludes with a brief account of Azariah's (also known as Uzziah) rule over Judah. Azariah did what was right in Jehovah's eyes, and Jehovah blessed him with success in military operations.

2 Kings chapter 14 emphasizes the dangers of pride and the importance of listening to wise counsel. It also shows how God uses wicked kings to accomplish His purposes and how He blesses those who seek to obey Him. In Kings, 14:24 The golden calf is used to impersonate God. As for the comments of the good king of Judah in the south, "but the high places have not been abolished" and they have never been able to "concentrate on obedience", the "golden calf" in the north represents a problem with the worship object of the people, and the "high places" in the south represent a problem with the worship attitude of the people, both of which have caused the people of the gods of the north and south to fall into sin without knowing it, and it has been difficult to extricate themselves for hundreds of years. Today, some people who serve God also "give thanks to God and give glory to God" in their hearts, consciously or unconsciously, they show themselves to be God, attributing their achievements to people's zealous love for the Lord and their great gifts, and attributing their failures to the indifference of their co-workers

Why did the king of Israel never remove the high places, and what was there in our lives that usurped God's position and we have not yet gotten rid of it?" Are there small faults or weaknesses in life that don't cause big problems, or are we so busy with so many things or important things to deal with that we don't have much time to pay attention to, so that they are already causing serious distress when I have time to deal with them or have brought them to our attention.

Don't think of God's help or blessing as the result of your own personal efforts or abilities, but be thankful to God, and don't act on your own unless it is God's direction or will, even if we have a good reason, otherwise it will only bring bad results.

Only God is eternal, so only a relationship with God can be brought into eternity. God values our relationship with Him and delights in doing good and showing mercy in His name because it is done for Him. The point is not on what great things were done, but on whom they did it and to please them, David became the king of Israel for God, and Daniel became the ruler of Babylon for God, and what they did showed that they knew God. Is the work in our hands done for God's sake, is it done for the sake of knowing God?

In the Bible, there are many verses that emphasize the eternal nature of God. Here are some of these verses:

Psalm 90:2: "Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world you did not make, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God." "

Isaiah 40:28: "Have you not heard? The LORD is the eternal God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither weary nor weary, and his wisdom is immeasurable." "

Isaiah 57:15: "For thus saith the God of the Most High, and Everlasting and Holy Name: I dwell in the most high and holy place, and with the contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite man." "

Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." "

These verses all express God's eternal and unchanging nature. May these verses bring you comfort and confidence in the eternal and firm existence of God.

We pray together:

Heavenly Father, we come to you and thank you for being the Eternal Lord. Your existence transcends the limitations of time and space, and you are God from eternity to eternity. We thank you for your steadfastness and loyalty, and you remain our solid rock even in the midst of the changes and challenges in our lives.

Help us to find peace and rest in the midst of irritability and turmoil. Let us find comfort in your eternal existence, knowing that your plan is for our good, even when we cannot understand or see its completeness.

May your love and peace fill our hearts so that we can rely on you with all our hearts, knowing that your will is better than we can ever imagine.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

2 Kings 14

14:1 In the second year of Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah became king.

14:2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Jehoidan, and she was of Jerusalem.

14:3 Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, but not as his father David did, as his father Joash did.

14:4 but the altar has not been abolished , and the people are still offering sacrifices and burning incense there.

14:5 As soon as the kingdom was established, he slew the servants who had slain his father's king.

14:6 But there is no son who put to death the king's slew is as Jehohua commanded him in the Law of Moses, "Not because the Son kills the Father, nor because the Father kills the Son, but every man shall die for his own sin."

14:7 Amaziah slew ten thousand of the Edomites in the valley of salt, and took Silas, and called him Jothel, and continues to this day.

14:8 At that time Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash king of Israel the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu's son, and said, "Come, and we will meet in battle."

14:9 And Joash king of Israel sent messengers to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, Tribulus terrestris of Lebanon, and hath sent messengers to the cedar trees of Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son as his wife. Then a wild beast passed by in Lebanon, and trampled the thistle terrestris.

14:10 Wherefore hast thou brought trouble to thyself and the kingdom of Judah, and thou hast taken pride in thy pride in the defeat of the Edomites, and hast thou ceased to dwell in peace in thy house.

14:11 But Amaziah would not listen to this. So Jehoash king of Israel came up and met Beth-shemesh of Judah in battle with Amaziah king of Judah.

14:12 The Jews were defeated before the Israelites, and fled to their homes.

14:13 And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah, the son of Joash, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoash, in Beth-shemesh, and he broke down the walls of Jerusalem, from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate.

14:14 And he took all the silver and gold, and all the vessels that were in the house of the king, and in the treasury of the king's house, and took them hostage, and returned to Samaria.

14:15 Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and his might, and his battle against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel.

14:16 And Joash slept with his fathers, and was buried in the sepulchre of the kings of Israel in Samaria. And Jeroboam his son succeeded him as king.

14:17 After the death of Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah, the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years.

14:18 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah are written in the book of the kings of Judah.

14:19 When a man in Jerusalem rebelled against Amaziah, he fled to Lachish. The rebels sent men to Raj and killed him .

14:20 And they carried his body on horses to Jerusalem and buried him in the sepulchres of his fathers in the Acropolis.

14:21 And all the people of Judah appointed Azariah (also known as Uzziah) the son of Amaziah to reign in his father's place, when he was sixteen years old.

14:22 After Amaziah slept with his fathers, Azariah recovered Elatah and returned to Judah, and resumed his reform.

14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria forty-one years.

14:24 And he did all the things which were evil in the sight of the eyes of Yahweh, and did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebal, who had made the Israelites to sin.

14:25 And he recovered the border of Israel from the mouth of Hamath unto the sea of Arabah, just as the God of Jehova and Israel had spoken through his servant Jonah, the prophet the son of Amithai, the son of Amites, the Githite.

14:26 Because Jehohua saw that the Israelites were in great distress, and that there was no one left to help them, and that there was no one to help them.

14:27 Jehohua did not say that he would blot out the name of Israel from heaven, but saved them through Jeroboam, the son of Joash.

14:28 Now the rest of Jeroboam's acts, and all his might, and how he fought, and how he recovered, and Hamath, which was formerly of Judah, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel.

14:29 Jeroboam slept with his fathers, the kings of Israel. And Zechariah his son reigned in his stead.

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In 2 Kings 14, some of the key verses include:

- He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not as David his father did. In all things he followed the example of Jehoash his father. (Section 3)
- Jehovah, however, was unwilling to destroy Judah. He promised to keep a lamp for David and his descendants forever. (verse 27)
- "He restored the borders of Israel from Lipohamas to the Dead Sea, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, through the words of his servant Jonah son of Amitaeus, the prophet of Gatehepher. (verse 25)

2 Kings chapter 14 discusses the reigns of Amaziah and Jeroboam II, kings of Judah

Israel, including their victories and defeats in battles. It also mentions the assassination of King Amaziah and the subsequent reign of his son Azariah (also known as Uzziah). The chapter ends with God's reluctance to completely destroy Judah because he promised to keep a "lamp" for David and his descendants.

In 2 Kings 14, we read about the reign of Amaziah, king of Judah. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

The Importance of Seeking God's Guidance: Amaziah began his reign by obeying God's laws and administering justice. However, when he decided to go to war with Edom, he sought the guidance of false gods, ignoring the advice of the prophets. This highlights the importance of seeking God's guidance in all our decisions, rather than relying on human wisdom or false sources. It reminds us that God's desire to direct our path, and seeking His counsel leads to wise and righteous choices.

Consequences of Pride and Arrogance: After defeating Edom, Amaziah became proud and challenged Jehoash, the king of Israel. Joash warned Amaziah not to be arrogant, but Amaziah ignored the warning and suffered defeat. This is a reminder of the dangers of pride and arrogance, which can lead to downfall and destruction. It prompts us to cultivate humility and recognize that we rely on God's strength rather than our own abilities.

The interconnectedness of action and consequences: Amaziah's defeat at Jehoash was not only the result of his pride, but also the result of his earlier rejection of God's guidance and turn to idolatry. This narrative illustrates the interconnectedness of actions and their consequences. It encourages us to consider the impact of our choices and to recognize that our decisions have far-reaching implications. It reminds us that obedience to God's commands brings blessings, while disobedience leads to negative outcomes.

God's sovereignty and His providential work: Despite Amaziah's defeat, God's sovereignty is obvious. King Jehoash of Israel reminded Amaziah that it was God who gave him victory over Edom and that God had caused him to fall. This highlights God's sovereignty over the affairs of nations and His caring work throughout human history. It assures us that God is in control of everything and that His will will ultimately prevail even in our failures and failures.

The fragility of human power and achievement: Amaziah's reign and military achievements were ultimately fleeting. Despite his initial successes, he failed to establish lasting peace and security for his kingdom. This reminds us of the fragility of human strength and achievement, as well as the limitations of the earthly kingdom. It prompts us to finally trust in God, who has ultimate authority, and who provides true and lasting security.

Overall, 2 Kings 14 reflects on the importance of seeking God's guidance, the consequences of pride and arrogance, the interconnectedness of actions and consequences, God's sovereignty and providential work, and the fragility of human strength and achievement. It calls us to humble ourselves before God, to seek His guidance, and to acknowledge His sovereignty in all aspects of our lives.