

The Desperate Plight of the Unregenerate (2 Chronicles 25) by Rev. Tom Aicken

The desperate plight of an unregenerate soul is very real. Amaziah, king of Judah, provides a clear example of that. 2 Chron. 25:2 tell us that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a loyal heart. Compare that with 2 Kings 14:3, which says that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like his forefather David (a believer); he did everything, rather, as his own immediate father Joash (an unbeliever) had done.

Let's consider this man Amaziah in order to trace the course of sin in his life.

1. Amaziah was able, through common sense and reason, to see a measure of wisdom in the ways of the Lord, and, when it suited him, he followed in those ways himself. He executed all the servants of his father, for instance, who had assassinated the king in his sleep – and yet, on the basis of Deut. 24:16, he would not execute their children. On the advice of an unnamed prophet of the Lord, moreover, he also got rid of many mercenaries whom he had previously hired to build up his army. These were wise things to do, and he prospered as a result of doing them. Even unbelievers, you see, can sometimes do the right thing, and yet, without a heart committed to Christ, they have no real peace with God or hope of eternal glory!

2. Because Amaziah's heart was not right with God, there was nothing in him to fight temptation; he had no will to resist what his own deceitful and desperately wicked heart wanted to do. Because he sent the mercenaries back home, the Lord gave him a remarkable victory over his enemies. Amaziah should have been thankful. Instead, he turned his back on the Lord who gave him the victory, and bowed down before the gods of his enemies who had not been able to give them any victory! Again, the Lord sent someone to warn him, but this time Amaziah refused to listen. How could he go so wrong? Clearly, Amaziah (like all unbelievers) did not know into what depths of iniquity his own heart was prepared to plunge!

3. Because his heart was not right with God, and because he would not repent when he did sin, Amaziah simply went from bad to worse. Sin is a plague upon the soul, and, as is the nature of plagues, its work is not finished until it has destroyed us. When the mercenaries returned home, they killed some 3,000 of the people of Judah. This made Amaziah angry, so he declared war on Israel. But, of course, it was his own fault that they did that, because he should never have hired those mercenaries in the first place! An emissary is sent from the king of Israel to warn the king of Judah, and it is fair warning, but Amaziah still refuses to listen and he is soundly defeated.

Amaziah shows us what too often happens to unbelievers: they harden their hearts against the Lord until He gives them over to their own reprobate mind, and there is no greater curse that may befall anyone than to be left to go his own way! Are you an unbeliever? Commit your life to Christ! The good news of Christ is the power of God to the saving of all who trust in Him!