

~ Does Bible study ever seem dull, dry or monotonous to you? Well, *ALL* Scripture is given by God and is profitable for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. See, every single word in the Bible has come from God and has a very real message for us in our lives right now. Even so, this section of Scripture is rather boring, to be sure. Some might say this report will be the most uninteresting report we have had in our Spiritual Safari – and most people think Chronicles are the two most uninteresting books in the entire Bible! So, we're in a tedious and exhausting section of Scripture. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read this Bible text carefully. We are still on that rocky, unpaved, uphill and dangerous road to revival we commenced upon six *long* reports ago....

XXIV

¹ Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba.

² And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

~ Jehoiada protected Joash from his grandmother, Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Remember, Athaliah killed all the sons in the Davidic line; Joash was the only one remaining alive. Jehoiada helped mentor Joash, who had a good mother. So, this next verse is strange because God had explicitly told the kings of Israel not to multiply horses or wives. David had multiplied wives, and Solomon had multiplied *BOTH*. Well, Joash only multiplied by *two* wives; which may have been the lesser of two evils — as most kings had harems full. I guess Joash only disobeyed God a little bit? Either way, Jehoiada was a good high priest who had the kings best interest at heart. Jehoiada lived to be one hundred thirty years old; and

the other priests who came along after him proved to be very evil in their actions....

³ And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

⁴ And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

⁵ And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

⁶ And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

⁷ For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

⁸ And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD.

⁹ And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.

¹⁰ And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

¹¹ Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and

emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

¹² And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.

¹³ So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

~ Joash was one of the few kings to experience revival during his reign. That may be questionable by some people, but it was definitely revival. Joash wanted to repair the house of the Lord which had fallen into complete disrepair. The priests were just too lazy and didn't do the work. They collected the money for the repairs, though, of course. Sound familiar? Many organizations today have what they call a "chest of Joash." Naturally, they use it as a collection for whatever purpose. The temple, at the time in which we are studying, was in terrible condition. Well, if you don't know what you're giving to or where the money is going, then you may be absolutely sure it *ISN'T* going to the work of the Lord.

¹⁴ And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

¹⁵ But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he 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 toward his house.

¹⁷ Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.

18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.

19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.

22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.

23 And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus.

24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.

26 And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess.

27 Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they are written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

~ Alright, another good king, who had experienced revival in his lifetime, ends his life in judgment and dishonor. As soon as Jehoiada passed away, Joash lapsed into a state of total apostasy! We have seen this time after time in this Book of Chronicles. It seems as if our revival record is stuck in the mud....

XXV

1 Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.

3 Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father.

4 But he slew not 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 die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

~ Do you have a Godly mother and father? Well, you'll never go to Heaven because of their faith. If you go to Heaven, you'll go there because of *YOUR* faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; a faith you will have to exercise yourself. Likewise, you'll not be judged by God because of the sins of your parents,

either. We'll all be judged *in this life* by our own sins. This is a very important principle God lays out here....

⁵ Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.

⁶ He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

⁷ But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.

⁸ But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

⁹ And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.

¹⁰ Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

¹¹ And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.

¹² And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.

13 But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Bethhoron, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil.

14 Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.

~ It's amazing that Amaziah would do such a thing with these foreign idols; but he did! It reveals the depth of iniquity that is always in the human heart. As we read on, we see civil war break out again as a result. The king of Judah wants to talk this problem out, but he gets a reply message from the king of Israel which says, "... we're not going to be able to walk together!" We covered this completely in the Book of Kings, so we'll keep moving along now....

15 Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?

16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face.

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 thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.

19 Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?

20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.

21 So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah.

22 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent.

23 And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake 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 the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obededom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

25 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

27 Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there.

28 And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

XXVI

1 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

2 He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

3 Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

4 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did.

5 And 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 to prosper.

~ This is an ordinary record of what happened at the time in which we are studying. It's monotonous, don't you agree? Uzziah was a good king — but not outstanding; there was no revival in Judah during his reign. This is the period during which Isaiah began his ministry and gave his prophecies:

Isaiah 6:¹ *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple ~*

God blessed Uzziah in war; and Uzziah did many good things as king. God didn't note anything particular about him, though — except one thing: his funeral. Our next report will examine what we can call a *happy funeral!* Death, for the child of God, is *NOT* a tragedy. For the Christian, death has lost its sting, and the grave loses its victory. Paul said we are not without hope in death because we go to be with Jesus.

So, we're going to Uzziah's funeral in the next leg of our expedition, and it has a very real message for us. Uzziah had a long reign in which nothing spectacular happened. Even so, the Psalmist said, "... *precious in the sight of the Lord are His saints!*" The question is: will the Lord delight in *YOUR* death? That question will be answered by whether or not you have become a saint by accepting the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why not examine your life *RIGHT NOW* and see if you are in the faith? If not, accept Christ today and be saved ~

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