

2 Chronicles 25:1-2

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. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.

I love reading in the Old Testament about the kings that ruled Israel and Jerusalem, and I love when a king does what's "***right in the sight of the Lord***" and you read this of some of the kings of Jerusalem, but none of the kings of Israel followed the Lord.

But today's devotional is about one of the kings of Jerusalem, and it does say that "***he did what was right in the sight of the LORD,***" but that's not the end of it, because if you read the rest of the verse, it says, "***but not with a loyal heart.***"

So, this king, named Amaziah, wanted to go to war against the Edomites, and he was going to hire Israel to go with him to battle and the bible says, "***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. 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.'***" 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.***" 2 Chronicles 25:7-9

So Amaziah sent the Israelites back home and did not include them in the battle. "***Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed ten thousand of the people of Seir.***" 2 Chronicles 25:11 and as you read that he was obedient to the Lord by sending Israel home, that is what "***he did what was right in the sight of the LORD***" is referring to. But what about the second part of, "***but not with a loyal heart.***"

Well if you read on it says that:

† **2 Chronicles 25:14** ***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.***

Wait... what? God delivers the Edomites into his hands and he defeats them and what does king Amaziah do? "***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.***"

That sounds crazy, GOD, our Awesome GOD does this great thing for the king yet he would rather serve the false god's that could not defend the Edomites. That would be like having the

entire police department protect you from a gang of robbers and murders, and you turn around and become one of those robbers and murders.

Yet how many times has the Lord help others out, for them only to go back to their sinful lifestyle again? Or how many have been helped by the Lord, yet they are unthankful, and actually thank others more than the Lord Who did it all? Simply, don't turn your back on the Lord because times are good for you, God says to those who do:

† **Isaiah 57:11-13 (NLT2)** *“Are you afraid of these idols? Do they terrify you? Is that why you have lied to me and forgotten me and my words? Is it because of my long silence that you no longer fear me? Now I will expose your so-called good deeds. None of them will help you. Let's see if your idols can save you when you cry to them for help. Why, a puff of wind can knock them down! If you just breathe on them, they fall over! But whoever trusts in me will inherit the land and possess my holy mountain.”*