

When

- Amaziah was king of Judah for 29 years. His reign fits between the years 840-810 B.C.

Key Characters

- **Joash (Jehoash) of Judah** – The father of Amaziah.
- **Amaziah** – King of Judah after Joash.
- **Joash of Israel** – He ruled as king over Israel during Amaziah’s reign in Judah.
- **Edomites (Men of Seir)** – The fought with Amaziah’s army. They inhabited the land south of the Dead Sea.



Where

- **Jerusalem** – The capital of the Kingdom of Judah and the location of God’s Temple.
- **Valley of Salt** – Amaziah took the army of Judah to fight with the Edomites at the Valley of Salt.
- **Beth-shemesh** – Judah and Israel battled each other at Beth-shemesh.

Outline

- **AMAZIAH BECOMES KING IN JUDAH (25:1-4):**
 - + When he was 25 years old, Amaziah became king of Judah and reigned 29 years.
 - + “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart” (25:2).
- **AMAZIAH AND JUDAH GO TO WAR WITH EDOM (25:5-13):**
 - + Amaziah gathered 300,000 men from Judah to go to war with the Edomites (the men of Seir). He also hired 100,000 men from Israel with 100 talents of silver.
 - + But God sent a messenger to Amaziah who told him to send the men from Israel home because the Lord was not with Israel.
 - + Amaziah did as instructed, he dismissed the Israelites, which made them very angry.
 - + Afterwards he went to battle with Edom in the Valley of Salt. God gave him the victory and the army of Judah killed 20,000 Edomites (men of Seir).
 - + As Judah was winning the battle in the south, the angry Israelite army that Amaziah had dismissed, was raiding towns in Judah. They killed a total of 3,000 people and took the spoils back to Israel.
- **AMAZIAH WORSHIPS THE IDOLS OF EDOM (25:14-16):**
 - + On his return from Edom, Amaziah did something stupid. He brought the idols of the Edomites back to Judah and started worshipping them.
 - + God sent a prophet to rebuke Amaziah. The prophet told the king God intended to “destroy” him.
- **AMAZIAH STARTS A FOOLISH WAR WITH ISRAEL (25:17-28):**
 - + There were tensions between the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.
 - + Amaziah challenged Joash, the king of Israel, to a battle.
 - + Joash laughed off the challenge, warning Amaziah his victory over Edom had given him a big head.
 - + He compared himself to a cedar tree and Amaziah to a thistle bush.
 - + But Amaziah refused to listen to the warning, “for it was of God, in order that he might give them into the hand of their enemies” (25:20). Amaziah led his army to battle against Israel at Beth-shemesh.
 - + Judah was defeated. Joash commanded his army towards Jerusalem and tore down 400 cubits (600 feet) of the city wall, plundered the city, and took hostages.
 - + Several years after his battle with Joash of Israel, Amaziah was assassinated.

Application

- It was completely ridiculous for Amaziah to worship the gods of the Edomites after those same gods failed to give the Edomites victory over Amaziah’s army!
- Have you ever worshipped lousy gods?
- Have you ever worshipped the idols of money, fame, sex, drugs, popularity, selfishness, etc?
- So many people worship and pursue these idols even though they’ve seen countless examples of these lousy gods failing other people in the past.
- We’ve all seen money, fame, sex, drugs, popularity, and selfishness fail those who fall in love with them.
- Don’t be like Amaziah and trade the only true God, for lousy gods that have a track record of failing their worshipers.