II Kings 14

Review…

- **I Kings 13 – The death of Elisha…**
  - Jehoahaz – was the 12th King of Israel…
    - Jehoahaz was the son of Jehu – but he was an evil king – followed the sin of Jeroboam…
    - The false religion of the Golden calves placed in Bethel and Dan…
    - As a result God allowed Israel to be defeated by King Hazael of Syria
  - Jehoash – was the 13th King of Israel - but he was a wicked King …
    - During his reign Elisha became sick and was going to die – so Jehoahaz went to see him…
    - Elisha told Jehoash to strike the ground with his arrows – the King did 3 times…
    - Elisha was angry with him – he should have struck the ground 6 or 7 times…
    - Then Israel would have been able to completely destroy Syria…
    - But because of the hesitation of the King – they would only win 3 battles!
  - After Elisha died and was buried…
    - There was a group of Israelites who happened to be burying a man…
    - A bunch of bandits from Moab invaded Israel during the funeral procession…
    - In fear the Israelites quickly threw the body into the tomb of Elisha…
    - The moment the body of the man touched the bones of Elisha – the man came back to life!

A divided heart… (*3 things*)

- **1st – King Amaziah – the 9th King of Judah… vs. 1-7** Read: II Kings 14:1-7
  - 1st – He did what was right – for the most part… vs. 1-4
    - King Amaziah seemed to be a good king – but he was not like King David…
      - He was not completely sold out to the Lord – he just looked good on the outside…
      - **II Chronicles 25:2** – "He did right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart."
      - Many Christians today think as long as they look good – then God is good with them…
      - But plastic Christianity is only skin deep – it has not power to change the heart!
      - We cannot serve both Jesus and the things of this world – a disloyal heart…
      - We will only be effective for God when we choose to be completely dedicated to Him!
      - **Luke 6:24** - "You cannot serve God and this world..."
    - King Amaziah was like his father – he did not destroy the High Places…
      - God commanded Israel to only have ONE PLACE to worship – **Deuteronomy 12:5-14**
        - When Joshua led Israel into the land to conquer it - Israel obeyed God's command…

- They destroyed all high places - and God set up the Tabernacle at Shiloh...
- In the tribe of Judah - **Joshua 18:1** - about 20 miles north of Jerusalem...
- It remained there for about 400 years - till King David moved it into Jerusalem

- All sacrifices had to be offered at the Tabernacle...
  - The Tabernacle was a way to associate Israel with the One True God...
  - If someone saw you bringing an animal to the Tabernacle - for sure you were a Jew!
  - In the same way one reason we go to church – is to associate ourselves with Jesus...
  - Because if we are not Christians - if we did not believe - we would not go to church!
  - If people watch our lives - what do our actions say about who we are...
  - Just looking at where we go - are we identified with Jesus / or with the world...
  - As the family of God we should declare to anyone watching - we believe in Jesus!

- 2nd – The sins of the Father… vs. 5-6
  - Once King Amaziah was established – he executed Jozachar and Jehozabad…
    - The men who assassinated his father (*because Joash had killed Zechariah the priest*)
    - But he did not have their children executed – in obedience to the Law of Moses…
    - **Deuteronomy 24:16 –** "Fathers shall not be put to death for *their* children, nor shall the children be put to death for *their* fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin."
  - There is a common belief in the church today about generational curses…
    - God carries the sin of the parents - to the children to the 3rd and 4th generation...
    - **Exodus 20:4-6 / Deuteronomy 5:8-9 / Exodus 34:6-7 / Numbers 14:18-19**
    - But what does God mean when He says He will visit the sins on the children...
    - In the Balance of Scripture we are told that we do not suffer for the sins of others…
    - **Ezekiel 18:20** - " The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."
    - To say children are cursed because of the choices of their parents contradicts the Bible…
    - And anytime we try to establish a doctrine that contradictors any scripture – its wrong!
  - The curse of example...
    - If a father gives an example of a sinful life to his kids - they will tend to follow...
    - In the same way a righteous example tends to lead the kids to Jesus!
    - But if we have a bad example for parents – we are not bound to repeat their mistake…
    - We are not cursed – look to a better example – break the chain of the generations!
    - **I Corinthians 5:17** – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
    - In Jesus we are no longer bound to the definition of our parents...
    - We now have the example of our Heavenly Father - Jesus defines us!
- 3rd – The battle for Edom… vs. 7
  - During the reign of King Joram of Judah – the Edomites had rebelled…
    - Now firmly established – Amaziah turned his attention to re-subjugating them…
    - He raised an army of 300,000 men from the his own kingdom – **II Chronicles 25:5-13**…
    - He also hired 100,000 men from Israel– for 100 talents of silver ($2 million)
    - But a man of God came and warned the King not include the men of Israel…

- God was not with them – and God would not fight for Judah if they came along!

- Amaziah complained – what about the $2 million dollars he had already paid them…
  - The man of God answered, 'The LORD is able to give you much more than this.'
    - Because no matter how much money is at stake – or how good the deal looks…
    - It is never worth while to be yoked with unbelievers **– II Corinthians 6:14**
    - In the Philippines it is still common to use a carabao to plow the fields…
    - But you cannot 'yoke' together a carabao and a goat – one will pull the other down!
    - A powerful picture - you cannot have a friendship with an unbeliever...
    - They are not the same as you are - they are going to pull you down!
    - An unbeliever may think it is alright to 'pass a bribe' / or 'doctor the books'...
    - Do not get involved in a business with unbelievers - you have different values!
  - Not that we are to avoid people who do not know Jesus...
    - In order to avoid them - you would have to leave this world!
    - We need to be interacting with those who do not know Jesus...
    - If we are not out in the world - we cannot show the world the hope of Jesus!
    - But though we are in the world - we should not be like the world - **John 17:15**
  - We need to be careful whom we spend our time with...
    - Do not spend all our time with 'friends' and family who do not follow Jesus...
    - Do not seek their counsel or advice - they are not going to point us to the Word
    - People will either draw us closer to - or father away from Jesus...
    - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "...bad company corrupts good character."
    - We should surround ourselves with godly men - who encourage us walk in the Lord!

- Amaziah kind of listened – HE strengthened himself – and went to battle…
  - HIS army killed 10,000 warriors of Edom in battle – and captures another 10,000
  - They took the prisoners to the top of 'Selah' – the Rock – and tossed them off…
  - The city is thought to later have been renamed Petra (*in modern day Jordan!*)
  - Then the king renamed the place – Joktheel – meaning 'conquered by God'…
  - People are funny – they like to take the credit for things that God does…
  - And give credit to God for things God had no part of (*tossing prisoners off a cliff*)…
  - Causing so many people to have misconstrued ideas about who God really is!

- **2ND – FAR FROM THE LORD… VS. 8-22** READ: II KINGS 14:7-22
  - 1st – Compromise – and Pride… vs. 8-15

    - Amaziah returned from the victory over Edom – **II Chronicles 25:14-16**
      - He brought with him the gods of the Edomites – and bowed down before them!
        - As a result the anger of the Lord was aroused – and He sent a prophet to Amaziah…
        - Why would you seek gods of the people whom you defeated!
        - Amaziah response was to threaten to kill the prophet unless he shut up!
      - The problem was Amaziah never had a close relationship with the Lord!
        - He did not remove the High Places – he trusted in money / large armies for victory…
        - When God corrected him – he strengthened himself and went into the battle…
        - He was a man far from God – and was looking for something to remind him of God…
      - The farther we get from God – the greater our tendency to worship things...

- God used a bronze serpent in the wilderness to save Israel - **Numbers 21**...
- But many years later - the people began to worship the serpent - **II Kings 18:4**...
- The people had grown far from God – so they worshiped something God had used!
- When we are from the Lord it creates a vacuum in our lives…
- We fill the void in our lives with superstations / trinkets that remind us of God...
- There is no power in charms / or traditions – what we need is to be closer to the Lord!

- Amaziah then declared war on Israel…
  - Because the 100,000 soldiers from Israel the king had hired / and then fired…
    - Raided the villages of Judah on their way back to Israel – **II Chronicles 25:13**
    - In retaliation / and undoubtedly prideful of HIS victory of the Edomites…
    - Amaziah decided he would now take on Jehoash and the Northern Kingdom!
  - Jehoash sent a letter to Amaziah in response…
    - The thistle (*Amaziah*) said to the cedar (*Jehoash*)– give me your daughter (*land*)…
    - But a wild beast (*armies of Israel*) trampled the thistle!
    - It was true Amaziah defeated Edom – he should glory in that – and stay at home!
    - But Amaziah would not listen – because God was determined to destroy him!
  - So Amaziah and Judah were soundly defeated in battle at Beth-Shemesh…
    - Jehoash came and tore down 600' of the walls of Jerusalem…
    - And he took all the gold and silver from the Temple and the King's house!
    - **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride goes before destruction, and arrogance before a fall."

  - Pride can be tricky – it is not always easy to see – but it always sets us up for a fall…
    - Pride can be – I think I know it all / I am never wrong / I do not need correction…
    - Pride can also be – thinking I am nothing / pride means its all about me…
    - Whether it is arrogance – or 'false' humility – if I am the focus – it is pride…
    - If I am the focus – then I am not looking to Jesus – and I am heading for a fall!

- 2nd – A bitter end… vs. 16-22
  - Shortly after the battle – King Jehoash died (*presumably from old age*)…
    - But Amaziah lived on for another 15 years after the death of Jehoash…
    - He had become hugely unpopular with his subjects…
    - He led Judah into a disastrous war that devastated / plundered the city…
    - But rather than repent – Amaziah turned from the Lord – **II Chronicles 25:27**
    - As a result the people conspired to kill him…
    - Amaziah fled to Lachish (*the world*) - but they found and killed him…
    - His body was brought back to Jerusalem and was buried with his fathers
  - The danger of living with a divided heart – is we might one day turn away…
    - Often we try to reason with God – how far away from the world do we need to be...
    - Can we at least look at the world – how about touch – just a light touch...
    - We do not want to be in the world – just really close – is that OK God...
    - But the truth is - if we are not drawing closer to the Lord - then we are drifting away...
    - We can reassure ourselves that we attend Bible studies /attend church on Sunday...
    - But where is our heart - are we excited / or just going through the motions...
    - **II Corinthians 13:5 –** "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith…"
    - It is not worth the danger to play around with the love of this world...

- It is far too easy to fall in love with this world – and miss Jesus!

- **3RD – TWO PROPHESIES… VS. 23-29** READ: II KINGS 14:23-29
  - 1st – A message of Grace… vs. 23-28
    - King Jeroboam became the 14th King of Israel – and reigned for 41 years…
      - But he was an evil king – because he followed in the sin of Jeroboam I…
      - Yet in spite of that – God allowed him to have victory over his enemies…
      - From the Sea of the Arabah (*Dead Sea*) all the way to Hamath (*central Syria*)…
      - God restored Israel to its original glory from the time of Jeroboam I!
    - God sent the Prophet Jonah to speak to the people of Israel…
      - This is the same Jonah who wrote the book of Jonah…
      - The same prophet who is thought to have anointed Jehu as King – **II Kings 9**
      - The first of the 'Minor Prophets' to prophecy to the Northern Kingdom!
    - God had seen the suffering of the people of Israel…
      - But God also saw there was no one who could help Israel – bond of free…
      - In other words there was no Godly man left to raise up as a leader / example…
      - Yet God was not ready to blot out the name of Israel from under heaven…
      - So God used an ungodly man – Jeroboam – to save his people and give them more time!
    - Many people assume they are 'ok' because God does not immediately punish them...
      - They make mistake of interpreting the Grace of God - for God's 'acceptance'...
      - Just because God has not judged yet – does not mean God will not judge…
      - God waits to punish sin only because He loves the sinner – **II Peter 3:9**
      - God is patient – longsuffering – to give time to repent and turn back to Him!
  - 3rd – A message of consequence… vs. 29
    - Jeroboam died a natural death – and his son Zechariah became the next King…
    - But before he died the prophet Amos warned him…
    - **Amos 7:17** - "Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Your wife shall be a harlot in the city; Your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword; Your land shall be divided by *survey* line; You shall die in a defiled land; And Israel shall surely be led away captive From his own land.'"
    - God is patient – longsuffering – to give time to repent and turn back to Him…
    - But if we harden our hearts - our sin will not remain hidden **– Galatians 6:7**