

Kings of Israel
When God Becomes a Means to an End
Sunday, September 13, 2026

2 Chronicles 25:1-9 NIV

Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem. ²He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not wholeheartedly. ³After the kingdom was firmly in his control, he executed the officials who had murdered his father the king. ⁴Yet he did not put their children to death, but acted in accordance with what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded: "Parents shall not be put to death for their children, nor children be put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin."

⁵Amaziah called the people of Judah together and assigned them according to their families to commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin. He then mustered those twenty years old or more and found that there were three hundred thousand men fit for military service, able to handle the spear and shield. ⁶He also hired a hundred thousand fighting men from Israel for a hundred talents of silver. ⁷But a man of God came to him and said, "Your Majesty, these troops from Israel must not march with you, for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of the people of Ephraim. ⁸Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow." ⁹Amaziah asked the man of God, "But what about the hundred talents I paid for these Israelite troops?" The man of God replied, "The LORD can give you much more than that."

1. Partial Obedience.

2. False Security.

3. Prideful Confidence.

Conclusion: Amaziah wanted what God could do for him, but he never fully gave himself to God. When God became a means to an end, he eventually found other means. But when God becomes our portion, we don't have to demand from Him or replace Him. We can trust Him—because having Him is enough.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
When God Becomes a Means to an End
Week of September 13, 2026- September 19, 2026

Ice Breaker: What's something you can easily trust for security or success instead of trusting God?

Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-9.

1. How is Amaziah described as following the Lord? (v.2)
2. Why is the latter description included?
3. Read Matthew 6:33. How does this relate and why is this taught?
4. What did Amaziah do to avenge his father's death? (v.3)
5. Was this just? Why? (v.4)
6. Why was Amaziah assembling the people of Judah? (v.5)
7. Who else did Amaziah hire to fight? Why? (v.6)
8. Have you taken measures to create your own sense of security without consulting God or trusting in His provision? How so?
9. What did the prophet say to Amaziah? (v.7)
10. What does this tell you about the state of Israel?
11. What truth was revealed if Amaziah kept to his plan? (v.8) How does God wield His power?
12. What was Amaziah's concern? (v.9)
13. Can you relate regarding something God has asked you to let go of to follow and trust His plan? How so?
14. What was the answer to his question? Have you experienced this?
15. Did Amaziah listen? How did the troops respond? (v.10)
16. Was Amaziah successful in battle? (vs.11-12)
17. What did the troops who were dismissed do? Why? (v.13)
18. What did Amaziah do after the victory? Why do this? (v.14)
19. What did the prophet say from God in response? (v.15) Who was Amaziah placing his security in?
20. What was revealed in Amaziah's heart? (v.16)
21. What was Amaziah's next move? What was his motive? (v.17)
22. How did Israel's king respond?
23. How does pride affect our decision-making? (vs.20-24, 27)
24. What happened to King Amaziah and all of Judah because of his foolish pride and departure from God? Do our prideful choices affect others?
25. If God is a means to an end, what are we truly worshipping? What are we treasuring in our heart?

Point to ponder: God cannot be reduced to a means of getting what we want. Jesus came to reconcile us TO God Himself. He is the blessing.