
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 ▫ Read 2 Kings 14:1–22

Questions from the Scripture text: In what year of the north does v1 take place? Who became king in the south? How old was he (v2)? How long did he reign? Who was his mother? What did he do (v3)? With what limitation? Like whom (v3b–4, cf. 12:3)? What was his first royal act (v5, cf. 12:20)? What didn't he do (v6)? Why (cf. Deu 24:16)? What victories did the Lord give him (v7)? Then whom did he want to take on (v8)? With a parable about what did Jehoash reply (v9)? What happens to the thistle in the parable? How does he explain the parable (v10)? How effective is this message (v11)? What action follows? With what outcome for Judah (v12)? And what outcome for Amaziah (v13a)? And what outcome for Jerusalem (v13b)? What did he take (v14, cf. 12:13, 18)? Whose summary from the north is repeated in v15–16 (cf. 13:12–13)? Who outlived him in the south, by how long (v17)? What does v18 imply weren't important enough to this account to record here? How did he die (v19, cf. 13:20–21)? With whom was he buried (v20)? Whom did they make king in his place (v21)? How old was he? What port town did he immediately rebuild (v22)?

Why do we need a perfect King? 2Kings 14:1–22 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **because Amaziah was an insufficient king, his reign was limited in its godliness, power, and longevity; the King that we need is Jesus.**

The Davidic dynasty is still going strong (v3). The promise that will be completed when the resurrected Christ rises from the dead and sits upon the throne of glory is still eking along. From a human perspective, it seems like northern Jehoash stomped on the thistle that was Amaziah in v9–13. But the surprise twist of repeating Jehoash's death summary (v15–16, cf. 13:12–13) reminds us that political, military, and economic power of this world lasts but a moment. v17 drives the point home: Amaziah lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash. So, the persistence of God's promise is the subtext of the passage.

Upon the foundation of this subtext, the Spirit tells a history that emphasizes the various comings-up-short of Amaziah.

He came up short spiritually, v1–4. We're looking for the David-like king that is greater than David, who will have the Psalm 72:5–7 effect upon the piety of his people. But even Amaziah's placement in the "did what was right" column (v3a) comes with an asterisk. He's less than David. Like father Joash (and many others), like son; the high places remain.

He came up short politically/militarily, v5–14. Again, there are promising things. He serves biblical justice in vv5–6 and has a David-like victory over the Edomites (v7, cf. 1Chr 18:12). But he bites off more than he can chew when he confronts the northern king whose throne is in Samaria (v8–14). Not until the Son of David sits upon the throne of glory will the Davidic kingdom gather Samaria back to Judea. And then, with Samaria, will follow the ends of the earth! But not so for thistle-ish Amaziah.

He came up short in longevity, v15–22. Amaziah's reign coincides almost exactly with northern Joash's, starting in the second year of the latter (v2). And despite Joash's besting him so badly in battle, Amaziah just about doubles him in length of reign (v17). But he dies in much the same way as his father (v17–20) whom he had avenged (v5, cf. 2Ki 12:20–21). His son, Azariah/Uzziah (v21) makes a Solomonic-like start (v22, cf. 1Ki 9:26; 2Chr 8:17), but more on him later, when he (like all the others before him) stir up in us a longing for king Jesus!

What leadership in the church comes up short? What leadership doesn't?! What leadership in the nation comes up short? What leadership won't? What events (should?) stir up your longing for Him?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for keeping Your promise to David. Forgive us for being those who serve You in half-measures like Amaziah. Forgive us for becoming proud, like he did, after You gave him some small victories. Thank You that Jesus has obeyed You in full on our behalf. Thank You that He humbled Himself to win full and forever victory. Forgive us for His sake, and give us to Him as His due, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72A "God, Give Your Judgments to the King" or TPH72A "O God, Your Judgments Give the King"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpCHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second kings, 14 1 to 22. These are God's words and the second year of joasha, has king of israel. And as i us, i'm jealous king of judah. Looking king. He was 25 years old when he became king and he reigned 29 years, In jerusalem as a mother's name was Jehaha Dan of jerusalem.

He did what was right in the sight of yawhi yet. Not like his father David. He did everything as his father, Joe Ash had done. However, the high places we're not taken away. And the people still sacrificed and burned incense. On the high places. Now, it happened as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand that he executed his servants.

Who had murdered his father of the king. But the children of the murderers, he did not execute according to what is written. In the book of the law of moses in which Yahwe commanded saying, fathers will not be put to death for their children. Nor shall children, we put to death for their fathers, but a person shall be put to death for its own sin.

He killed 10 thousand needomites and the valley of salt and took celeb by war and called its named Yakfield to this day. Then amazonia sent messengers to joe ashtaneho has son of Jehoving of israel saying, come Let us face one another in battle. Jealous king of israel, sent to amazon king of judah saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar.

That wasn't Lebanon saying, give your daughter to my son, his wife. And a wild beast that was in lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle. You have indeed defeated edam and your heart has lifted you up glory in that. Stay at home. Why should you meddle the troubles? So that you fall and you and due to with you?

Amazonia would not heed. Therefore, Jehosh king of Israel went out. So he and amazon. Can you do to face to one another a bit semesh which belongs to Judah? And Judah was defeated by israel and every man fled to his tent, Then Jehovah's king of Israel. Captured Amazon king of due to son of Jehosh.

Son of Azalea baked sandwich. And he went to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim. To the corner gauge, 400 cubits. He took all the gold and silver. All the articles that were found in the house of Yahweh and the treasuries of the king's house.

And hostages. And return to Samaria. Now, the rest of the acts of Joe Hash which he did his might and how he fought with Amazonic of Judah. Are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? Such as rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria.

With the kings of Israel. Then Gerald Bohn his son reigned in his place. Amazon.com of Judah, live 15 years. After the death of Jealous, son of Jehovah, asking of Israel. Now, the rest of the act of Ms. Are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

They formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem and he fled to Lushy, but they sent after him to Lakish. And killed him there. And they brought him on horses and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David. And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was 16 years old.

And made him king instead of his father Amazon. He built left and restored it to Judah. After the king arrested with his fathers.

So far, the reading of God's. Inspired and inherent word.

So Amazon. Descended from David, which it is very encouraging to us because I'm the guy himself as discouraging, but the fact that Oh, this far into the kingdom this far into the divided kingdom. There's still a son of David on, the throne reminds us. That David has been promised that from his line shall come.

A forever king. And so, the promise continues. And it will ultimately be fulfilled. Of course, when The Lord Jesus takes his seat on the throne. Not of Jerusalem in the engineer east. But of heaven. And it's actually Jesus, who makes heaven Jerusalem. Uh, and heaven comes to be called the new Jerusalem.

Because the son of David. Takes a seat. Upon the throne of glory. And so we we still have here. The continued carrying out of what God has planned to do. In his son for His subjects for us.

But that makes the main point of Amazon's life. He is not Jesus. He is not the promised one. And he comes up short, in many ways. One of the wonderful Um, One of the wonderful truths about the Lord Jesus. As the heart that he gives to his subjects and the righteousness that saturates the kingdom that is under him.

Psalms 72, verses 5 through 7. Which is the wonderful psalm. That David wrote for Solomon, probably. Uh, if you consider the superscript. Perhaps even probably even. Um, for either Solomon's coronation or as part of David's provision for the temple, you remember, he gathered all those materials and the organized divisions of priests and he wrote a bunch of psalms for the same, the singing, and the public worship of the temple etc.

Um, Psalm 72. The forever king makes his. People. Righteous. And we are looking forward to that. This is one of the ways that Amazon fault comes up short. Walks he does what is right in the eyes of Yahweh. First three. Yet not like his father David, he wasn't even as good as David we're looking for someone better than David and he wasn't even as good.

As David he does, like, Joish and in particular. That means he does not do away with the high places. Uh, he neither. Rules over the people. Well, enough to destroy the high places nor is used of God to lead them. Enough. Um, That they would be spiritually, reformed. So he can he comes up short spiritually.

He comes up short politically in militarily. The forever king is going to rule to the ends of the earth. Uh, Amazon does. Uh, fairly well at first. He does punish the conspirators who had murdered his dad. Who had committed to treason? He doesn't punish their sons. He does it according to God's law so far so good.

The Lord even grants him to kill tent can kill. 10 thousand Edamites in the valley of salt, very similar. To a victory that took place under David. As referenced in first Corinthians, Uh, it first Corinthians. No first chronicles 18 verse 12. And so there is David likeness Uh, even injustice and Um, Defensive enemies, but he is.

Unable to reunite the Kingdom by force. It seems in the way that Jehovah the northern. Who has named after Amazon's daddy. Uh, responds to him. Uh, it seems like there is an amicable enough relation between the two of them. Um, And yet, Amazon Uh, decides that. He is going to undo.

What Rehoboam is ancestor? Had done, it was Uh, the sins of Solomon, and the sins of Rea Bomb that Um, The Kingdom had been divided. And of course you cannot by force undo that which comes upon you. As discipline from the Lord. What is needed? First and foremost. It's always repentance.

And reformation. So, even though things are not bad between him and northern Joesh or Jehosh, He's still provokes him. Even Josh doesn't want to go to war with him. Apparently, the northern kingdom is so economically politically and militarily powerful at this point. Um, that The Jehovah is basically says, thistles, shouldn't pick fights with cedars.

You might get stepped on by something much smaller than a cedar. And then we wouldn't even get to have our battle. Because you would just be. Thistle paste. Or thistled dust. On the ground. And so he comes up short politically and militarily. Sadly, this becomes the next. Step in the emptying of.

The, the articles of the worship of God and And the temple. Ever since just about the temple had been built. You know, right from here bone. The. The things that had been supplied. For the worship of God have exited. Um, I was going to say little by little, but and most cases it has been a lot by a lot.

And even when some has been restored to the treasury, it gets taken out. In the next loss, and the next defeat. And Jehovahch himself joins the the list, the line. Of people who have done this in verse 14. And he takes the gold and silver and all the articles not just of the treasuries of the king's house.

But also, Of the house of Yaha. And of course, Msias. Rain comes up short in longevity. Uh, we are reminded of how foolish the pride of Jehovah is. Cedar that he is by comparison to the thistle. That Amazon is. Uh, his reign is still about half as long as Amazon's.

Um, Limousiah continues. Living and reigning 15 years after the death of The northern jewel, ash and verse 17. And yet. Uh, even though Amazon doubles just about Joe Ash, And the length of his reign. He comes to the same end that his dad southern Jokosh. Had come a conspiracy is formed against him.

And he has murdered. There are many conspiracies that are formed against christ. But this is the glory of psalm 2 that even though all of the kings and the peoples plot, Against the lord and his anointed, it's not a new thing. For kings and peoples to plot against the lord in his anointed.

But this particular anointed, the one. To whom the whole world belongs is. Appointed inheritance. All that plotting is in vain. Well, not so against. Amazonia and not so against his daddy. Joe ash, the southern. Plots against them, can't succeed. And so, the basic message of second kings 14:1-22 is Amazoniah is not jesus.

We must have jesus. Only jesus can do what we need spiritually, including change our own hearts. Not just forbid our false worship which amazon had failed to do. But even if you forbids it, the people would still be wicked in their hearts. Our lord jesus. Not only gives us.

Right. And good commands entirely. Full commands complete commands. They could change our hearts, When he jesus, because he does. Um, defeat all of his and our enemies. He is. Not merely a cedar to the thistles. Of others. He is Almighty god. He destroys all the enemies with the breath of his mouth.

And he lives forever. And he reigns forever.

There's a hint for those who know what's coming. Azariah, who's also Uh, known as utsaya. And is going to rain. Um, Well, for A very long time, indeed. He takes retakes the port city. If you left. Which Solomon had originally made a staging ground for his ships. That went out and got gold.

But they're going to lose the port of your lab before long. So, even asiah, who is double the length of his dad as a riot as he's called here in verse 21. Who is double the length of his dad still is going to die. And we're looking for the king, that does not die.

The one who's reign, Has no end. We need king jesus. For your own life. There are lots of things. You may come into a new season of your life, in which things. Seem to be. Going better according to god's word and to praise god for that. Mercy. But It's the perfection of christ.

That you need counted for you and it's Christ's perfecting you and glory. That is the ultimate work. Of sanctification. Not merely the increments. Of this life. Keep your focus on that holiness, that you produces. So that you may see the lord. You may do well. In earthly things. For a time.

But there's always someone stronger and better than you. There isn't anyone stronger or better than christ? It's his accomplishments that matter, not ours. And so we neither get proud. Over our temporal accomplishments, nor are we to be discouraged if they seem few, So long as we independence upon grace and in continual repentance from our sin Our fulfilling, the callings that he has given us.

Um, You don't need to fall into 28 21st century nonsense about the great difference that we can make in the world and how special we are just like everyone else. Uh, no. Christ is special, unlike anyone else? And he has accomplishing all his holy. Well, And what we do matters because it's part of his plan.

Not because Uh, the thing that we Are proud of is going to last because it might not. And then don't live for this world. You are going to lay down in your grave tomorrow. And if not tomorrow the next day, and if a hundred years from now, And light of eternity.

It's just about the same as tomorrow. So live in this world vigorously for christ. But do so, as someone Uh, whose hope whose joy. Whose purpose? Is in eternity. Amazon is not. The promised one, but we have him. So, let's not live four or under. Or delighting in. Anyone or anything that is less?

The lord jesus. He's the one. Let's pray. Our father, we thank you that you have given your son to be the son of david. To be our king, our redeemer. The one whom we guess the one, Before whom we bow, the one in whom We trust and hope. That we may be happy forever.

Rather than shattered and destroyed. Like those who, Plot. And scheme. To make themselves great. And we pray that your spirit would conform our hearts and minds. To what we have seen and heard and learned again. From this portion of your word in jesus name, amen.