

2 Chronicles 25-29 – Chapter Study

I. THE REIGN OF SOLOMON CHS. 1-9

II. THE REIGN OF THE DAVIDIC DYNASTY CHS. 10-36

9 Generations removed from the great King David was his descendant and the next king of Judah -

I. *Amaziah Ch. 25*

25:1 Amaziah was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. ² And he did *what was right* in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.

Amaziah's devotion to God wasn't sincere.

It was simply a *good policy* to go with when he first came to the throne.

Because he wasn't genuinely loyal to God, but only used religion as a means to secure his throne, he went off into idol-worship later.

³ Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established for him, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king. ⁴ However he did not execute their children, but *did as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, [Deut 24] "The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall die for his own sin."*

Amaziah's father Joash was a despised king who was such a poor ruler, a small band of Syrians was able to invade Judah, even to marching through the streets of the capital, doing what they wanted.

Joash's reign was such a disaster, a palace conspiracy led to his assassination.

When Amaziah took the throne, he had the assassins rounded up and executed.

It was a common practice in the ancient world for rulers to execute not just traitors, but to wipe out their entire family.

It was a terror tactic that would cause people to think twice before committing treason.

It was also *unjust* so God forbade it.

Here at the beginning of his reign, Amaziah shows a concern to walk in obedience to God.

⁵ Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together and set over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, according to *their fathers' houses*, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he numbered them from 20 years old and above, and found them to be 300,000 choice *men, able to go to war, who could handle spear and shield.*

The recent invasion by the Syrians revealed how weak the defenses of Judah were so Amaziah set about to shore them up.

So far, so good – then he makes a serious blunder.

⁶ He also hired 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 100 talents

of silver.

Thinking he didn't have enough of his own troops Amaziah hired some Israelite mercenaries.

There's another *very important reason* why Amaziah did this: This was when the *Assyrians* were making moves south.

The Northern coalition of nations that had handed earlier Assyrians incursions into the area several defeats, had fallen apart.

Now there was nothing standing in Assyria's way or pressing south all the way to Egypt.

The stories that went before the Assyrians were terrifying.

You see, they *used terror* as a means of warfare.

They were bloodthirsty & brutal & took delight in the most sadistic tortures.

Their goal was to so scare opponents they'd give up and surrender without a fight.

Anyone who opposed them was subjected to the most heinous & hideous things.

The Assyrians would let a few captives escape so they would run away & spread their terror to others.

Those stories had reached Judah & Amaziah prepared for the Assyrian onslaught. So while he beefed up & reformed the military, he failed to do the most important thing – ask God for help.

7 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. 8 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."

This was another unholy alliance because the men of Israel worshipped idols.

This prophet warned Amaziah to not trust in such men but to look to the Lord.

If he insisted on going into battle with the mercenaries, they'd lose.

If not, God would help them win.

9 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?"

"But I paid them a lot of money – shouldn't I at least try to get my money's worth?"

And the man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this."

Do the right thing & let the rest go → then watch how God will make it up.

Amaziah's concern about the silver he paid is classic.

Fred's not been doing so well in his walk lately.

It's been a while since he's been in fellowship or read his Bible or even prayed.

It crosses his mind every so often, but he pushes those thoughts aside because they make him uneasy.

One evening he stops at the video store & rents a couple movies that are pretty racy.

A twinge of conscience needles him as he stands in line & holds them in such a way that no one can see the titles.

When he gets back in his car for the drive home, there's a song on the radio he loathes so he hits one of the presets for another station. It lands on what used to be one of his favorite Bible programs.

The teacher has a word divinely appointed for him – sharing about how eager & ready God is for us to come back to Him.

Tears spring to his eyes & he pours out his heart in a sweet anguish of repentance, forgiveness & renewed joy.

By the time he pulls in front of his apartment he's doing better.

He reaches over to the passenger seat to collect his things & sees the videos.

It hits him—he shouldn't watch them.

But then a little voice says, "I just paid nearly 10 bucks! I ought to at least get my money's worth. It wouldn't be *good stewardship* to *not* watch them."

Another thought comes, "What about the stewardship of your times, eyes, & desires?"

What about the stewardship of your heart?

10 So Amaziah discharged the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go back home. Therefore their anger was greatly aroused against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

Why would soldiers be upset that they got paid but didn't have to do battle to earn it?

In ancient warfare, one of the prime motivators to fight was for the *loot* the victory took.

These guys had wanted to be part of a large force that went against the Assyrians because they were loaded with the loot of prior conquests.

By being sent home, there was no chance they'd be able to constitute a force on their own that could defeat the Assyrians.

11 Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed 10,000 of the people of Seir. 12 Also the children of Judah took captive 10,000 alive, brought them to the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were dashed in pieces.

Seir was another name for *Edom* which until recently had been a vassal state to Judah.

They'd broken away not long before & this was a reprisal raid meant to *punish* them.

Some of the Assyrian terror tactics influenced the thinking of the king of Judah.

He probably did this to gain his own reputation for cruelty & savagery & move the Assyrians to think twice about invading.

Even though this raid was a victory for Judah, it did restore Edom as a vassal - they maintained their independence.

And while Judah was raiding Edom, those angry Israelite troops Amaziah had let go decided to do a little raiding of their own.

13 But as for the soldiers of the army which Amaziah had discharged, so that they would not go with him to battle, they raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon, killed 3000 in them, and took much spoil.

Amaziah *never* should have attacked the Edomites.

That whole campaign was ill-advised & not what God wanted them to do.

The tactics Amaziah had used were *abominable*.

His foolishness opened the door to the Israelites to make this raid.

When Amaziah heard what the Israelites had done, he got *bitter at God*.

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.

What?? This makes no sense whatever!

Amaziah had just defeated the Edomites. Fat lot of good their gods did them.

Why would he worship such weak gods? This makes no sense. *EXACTLY!*

15 Therefore the anger of the LORD was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, “Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?”

What Amaziah did was so silly, it’s almost *as if* God Himself is surprised.

Of course He’s not, but God speaks to him in such a way as to express His extreme disapproval.

16 So it was, as he talked with him, that the king said to him, “Have we made you the king’s counselor? Cease! Why should you be killed?” Then the prophet ceased, and said, “I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice.”

This unnamed prophet tried to reason with Amaziah & see him restored to the Lord.

Amaziah had, after all, done the *right thing* not long before when he sent the guys home.

But when the king rejected God’s message, it was evidence God had rejected him from being king.

What we see in this exchange is a crucial truth we must all take to heart.

How we respond to God’s Word determine everything.

It is one of the surest evidences of where we are in our relationship with God.

17 Now Amaziah king of Judah asked advice and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let us face one another *in battle*.”

“Let’s rumble!”

Amaziah was mad the Israelites had raided so he chooses off their king.

“Let’s not just snipe at each other’s border with these little raids – lets pull out all the stops and start a full-on war!”

This is idiotic. This was the worst possible time for Judah & Israel to be duking it

out.

The Assyrian war-machine was on its way.

18 And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son as wife’; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

The cedars of Lebanon were world-renowned for their beauty & grandeur.

So the idea of an annoying little weed demanding anything of the cedar was utterly absurd!

Why a wild boar would not even alter it’s course to go around that weed – it would just trample it underfoot it’s so inconsequential!

19 Indeed you say that you have defeated the Edomites, and your heart is lifted up to boast. Stay at home now; why should you meddle with trouble, that you should fall—you and Judah with you?”

Amaziah was feeling his oats because of his recent victory over the Edomites.

Israel was an altogether different foe.

The Oaks High School football team would whoop the flag football team of Isabel Junior High.

But if the Oaks played the Dallas Cowboys – yeah – that’d be a slaughter.

20 But Amaziah would not heed, for it came from God, that He might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought the gods of Edom.

All this was from God in that He withdrew His restraint from Amaziah and let him pursue the course his heart was set on.

21 So Joash king of Israel went out; and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

Beth Shemesh lies at the border of where the coastal plain meets the Judean hills.

Joash would have marched his army along the main roads that lie along the coastal plain, then moved east until they met Amaziah’s forces dug in around the foothills.

22 And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent. 23 Then Joash the king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh; and he brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—four hundred cubits. 24 And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of God with Obed-Edom, [the priest’s family responsible for the temple storerooms and treasuries] the treasures of the king’s house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

This was a major defeat & catastrophe.

One of the most devastating of the losses was the taking of hostages.

These would be family members of the royal court and the most powerful & influential families of Judah.

They were kept at Samaria to ensure no more shenanigans from Amaziah & his supporters.

25 Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived 15 years after the death of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. 26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, indeed are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel? 27 After the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there. 28 Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.

Both he and his father were assassinated because when they turned from God, they ruled so poorly, they ruined the kingdom.

It doesn't matter who or what you are – life doesn't work without God.

J. Uzziah Ch. 26

1 Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was 16 years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

Reading the text as we do here on Wednesdays wouldn't likely reveal the problem with dating all this.

But if we sat down and took both Kings & Chronicles, along with the references to the historical events surrounding the story, we'd discover there's a serious overlap of dates here between Amaziah and his son Uzziah.

The resolution is found in something mentioned about the reign of some of the kings; their sons become vice-regents while their father's is still on the throne.

Their reign is reckoned as commencing, not when their father dies, but when they become a vice-regent.

That's the way it is for Uzziah. [\[1\]](#)

His father reigned for only 6 years when he was made a vice-regent at 16 years of age.

They then reigned together for the next 23 years.

The reason for this was because as Amaziah's story makes clear – he was reckless and the people knew he might easily lose his life in one of his foolish campaigns.

So they ensured very early in his rule there was a designated ruler in case something happened to him.

Remember, there have been 2 royal assassinations so far.

Assassination is often a tool of those attempting a coup.

2 He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

The way this is worded adds weight to the idea he co-reigned with Amaziah.

He didn't do this until after his father was dead, implying he was in a position to do so before, but didn't.

Elath was one of Solomon's port cities on the northernmost tip of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Today it's a famous Israeli tourist destination called Eilat.

It was one of the cities the Edomites claimed when they broke away from Judah. Uzziah took it back and rebuilt it as a fortress.

³ Uzziah was 16 years old when he became king, and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. ⁴ And he did *what was right* in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

In other words, like his father, he *began* his reign, making it public policy to continue allegiance to the God of Israel rather than idols.

But like his father, that was less a heart-felt conviction as it was the politically expedient position to take.

⁵ He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

This prophet Zechariah is not the same as the one who wrote the book bearing his name.

This is much earlier in Judah's history.

This was a godly influence in the young ruler's life for the first years of his reign as co-regent with his father.

Because he was only 16 when his co-regency began he'd have still been under the instruction of a royal tutor – which is more than likely what Zechariah was.

As long as he was there to steer Uzziah in the right direction, he sought God, and God blessed him.

It may have been Uzziah's greater fitness to rule that moved the assassins to bump off his father who had done such a poor job of ruling and had brought the nation to its knees before Israel.

⁶ Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities *around* Ashdod and among the Philistines. ⁷ God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites. [nomadic eastern tribes]

If you've been with us over the last couple weeks you know these people on Judah's west & eastern borders had been raiding & giving them a hard time.

Uzziah put an end to their forays into Judah & reasserted a strong presence in the heart of Philistine territory.

⁸ Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong. ⁹ And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them.

Uzziah did a complete revamp of Judah's military & defenses.

The wall of Jerusalem knocked down in their defeat by Israel during his father's foolish campaign was rebuilt with new fortifications installed to make sure it didn't happen again.

¹⁰ Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; *he also had*

farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for he loved the soil.

Uzziah understood that a large professional military, as opposed to a volunteer militia, required a huge support structure.

So he developed a national infrastructure to support the army in the form of extensive agricultural projects.

New wells were dug to expand arable soil & pasture.

Towers were built near the wells to protect them from raiders.

The word “Carmel” here means “garden land” and ought to be translated such.

This isn’t a reference to Mt. Carmel way up north in Israel.

The writer is saying that the agricultural works were spread all over, in the lowlands, the plains, the hills and in the lush places.

¹¹ Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king’s captains. ¹² The total number of chief officers of the mighty men of valor was 2,600. ¹³ And under their authority was an army of 307,500, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. ¹⁴ Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones. ¹⁵ And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.

Beginning here with v. 15 and going through v. 21 is what we looked at Sunday.

Once his fame & power were set – he lost his sense of dependence on God, became arrogant, and tried to take on the role of the high priest.

He foolishly entered the sacred Holy Place of the temple and was smitten with leprosy which he bore for the rest of his life.

²¹ King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king’s house, judging the people of the land. ²² Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote. ²³ So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which *belonged* to the kings, for they said, “He is a leper.” Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

Because leprosy was a disease that isolated the victim from everyone except other lepers, they didn’t bury Uzziah in the royal tombs along with his ancestors.

They put him in a grave nearby.

K. Jotham Ch. 27

¹ Jotham was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. ² And he did *what was right* in the sight of the LORD,

according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.

The previous 3 kings started good but went bad.

Jotham goes down as being good from start to finish. The writer has nothing negative to say of him.

“The people” come in for a different evaluation – they were corrupt.

It’s interesting that during the time of both Jehoram (21) & Athaliah (23) there was a large & vocal group of people who disapproved of the rulers wicked ways.

Now the tables have turned and we have a good king but a mostly corrupt populace.

³ He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively on the wall of Ophel.

These were all defensive structures for Jerusalem.

⁴ Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers. ⁵ He also fought with the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. And the people of Ammon gave him in that year 100 talents of silver, 10,000 kors of wheat, and 10,000 of barley. The people of Ammon paid this to him in the 2nd and 3rd years also. ⁶ So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God. ⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. ⁸ He was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem.

I find it interesting that the Ammonites brought him 100 talents of silver the same amount his grandfather Amaziah had paid and lost to the Israelites because he DIDN’T trust in God.

God gave the exact same amount back to Jotham because he DID trust in God with all his heart.

Folks – we’ve just got to learn this lesson from the Kings of Judah – it’s all about our heart - about trusting God totally – for & in everything.

It doesn’t matter how scary the sitch or how great the need.

Trust God with all you’ve got – cast yourself in dependence on Him then step out & watch Him do His thing.

⁹ So Jotham rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

L. Ahaz Ch. 28

¹ Ahaz was 20 years old when he became king, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done.

As good as Jotham was – his son was just as bad!

In fact, Ezra goes all the way back to David for an idea of just how bad Ahaz was.

Jehoshaphat was the first of David’s descendants likened to him because he

was sold out to the Lord.

Well, Ahaz was the flip-side of that, he was *nothing* like David! No part of his heart belonged to God.

He'd was an apple that had fallen very far from the tree of his great ancestor.

² For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. ³ He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

He practiced human sacrifice; even offering up his own kids.

⁴ And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. ⁵ Therefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They defeated him, and carried away a great multitude of them as captives, and brought *them* to Damascus. Then he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter. ⁶ For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 in Judah in one day, all valiant men, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.

This was a slaughter of *cosmic proportions* for that day.

⁷ Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the officer over the house, and Elkanah *who was 2nd* to the king. ⁸ And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren 200,000 women, sons, and daughters; and they also took away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria. ⁹ But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage *that reaches up to heaven*. ¹⁰ And now you propose to force the children of Judah and Jerusalem to be your male and female slaves; *but are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?*

The prophet issued a caution – You defeated Judah because God allowed it; you are nothing but the instrument of His judgment.

But think about it – you're no better!

Judah was judged for things you've been doing for longer than they.

And now, you've gone beyond what's acceptable in your treatment of the defeated.

How do you think God will treat you???

¹¹ Now hear me, therefore, and return the captives, whom you have taken captive from your brethren, for the fierce wrath of the LORD *is upon you*." [hovering over] ¹² Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war, ¹³ and said to

them, “You shall not bring the captives here, for we *already* have offended the LORD. You intend to add to our sins and to our guilt; for our guilt is great, and *there is* fierce wrath against Israel.” ¹⁴ So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and all the assembly. ¹⁵ Then the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives, and from the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them, dressed them and gave them sandals, gave them food and drink, and anointed them; and they let all the feeble ones ride on donkeys. So they brought them to their brethren at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

The warning was heeded and they let the captives return home.

This whole thing ought to have been a major warning to both Israel & Judah about what Moses had warned years before in Deuteronomy – that if they turned from God, He would defeat them in battle and carry them away captive out of their land to another country.

Well – here’s it happening for the very obvious reason that they’d forsaken God under Ahaz.

That they were so quickly released was a sign of God’s grace → All of this was meant by Him to be a warning, because in just a few years after this – Israel will be defeated by the Assyrians & carried away captive.

Still – it is NOT TOO LATE if they will repent and come back to the Lord! All of this was a massive, live object lesson to both kingdoms – but they didn’t heed it.

¹⁶ At the same time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria to help him. ¹⁷ For again the Edomites had come, attacked Judah, and carried away captives. ¹⁸ The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Sochoh with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages; and they dwelt there. ¹⁹ For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD. ²⁰ Also Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him. ²¹ For Ahaz took part *of the treasures* from the house of the LORD, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave *it* to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him.

Ahaz had sent a massive bribe to the Assyrians to solicit their help against Israel and their other enemies but the Assyrians just kept the gift and ignored him.

²² Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This *is that* King Ahaz. ²³ For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, “Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me.” But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel. ²⁴ So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the

articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. ²⁵ And in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers. ²⁶ Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ²⁷ So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

The people who were responsible for the burial of the kings remained loyal to the Lord so that they kept the good & loyal kings together but separated out those who'd dishonored God.

M. Hezekiah Chs. 29-32

1. Cleansing of the temple Ch. 29

¹ Hezekiah became king *when he was 25 years old, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah.* ² And he did *what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.*

He's only the second to be likened to David in a positive way – Jehoshaphat was the first.

It was during Hezekiah's reign that the Assyrians conquered & deported Israel.

End there because the rest is what we'll dig into Sunday.

[1] The chronological data for both kings are very well established on grounds too complicated to be considered here. (For a full discussion see Edwin R. Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1983, pp. 113-23.) The narratives can be viewed in a way that legitimately comports with the dates mentioned earlier. The best solution appears to be that the leadership of Judah, fearing early in Amaziah's reign that he was unstable and incompetent, made his young son Uzziah vice-regent. In other words after Amaziah had reigned only six years (796-790) Uzziah, *then* (in 790) 16 years old, was appointed second to the king. From then until Amaziah's death (767) they reigned together for 23 years (790-767). Then Uzziah reigned alone for 29 years until his own death. This would require, of course, that the chronicler meant that the people of Judah had made Uzziah vice-regent at the age of 16 (2 Chron. 26:1). In support of this reconstruction is the fact that Uzziah received religious instruction from Zechariah (v. 5). Zechariah, however, was stoned to death by some Judeans before the death of Amaziah's predecessor Joash (24:21-22), who died in 796. Uzziah, then, obviously was of a teachable age before 796 (by 796 he would have been 10 years old). His major independent accomplishments could not have come about until his sole regency began in 767 so these are the ones with which the historian is particularly concerned. Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary: An exposition of the scriptures* (1:639). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books