

2 Kings 14

Verses 1 - 6

In the second year of Joash son of Joahaz king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah became king. ² He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem. ³ He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like his father David; he acted in accordance with everything that his father Joash had done. ⁴ Only the high places were not eliminated; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. ⁵ Now it came about, as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his hand, that he killed his servants who had killed the king, his father. ⁶ But he did not put the sons of the murderers to death, in obedience to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, as the Lord commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for the sons, nor the sons be put to death for the fathers; but each shall be put to death for his own sin."

In the second year of Joash son of Joahaz king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah became king. ² He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem.

See Chart 1405

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like his father David; he acted in accordance with everything that his father Joash had done.

There is a close parallel in the lives of Amaziah and his father Joash. Both were zealous for God in the early part of their reign but in the latter part they both fell away. They both disregarded the rebuke of a prophet and having forsaken God were conspired against and slain.

⁵ Now it came about, as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his hand, that he killed his servants who had killed the king, his father.

It was uncommon for a Southern king to be overthrown by his servants or to die from a conspiracy.

See chart 1407

	King	A son reigned after his father except in 4 cases	How the king died	End of one and the beginning of another
1	Rehoboam		Natural Death	1 Kings 14:31
2	Abijah (aka Abijah)		Natural Death	1 Kings 15:8
3	Asa		Natural Death	1 Kings 15:24
4	Jehoshaphat		Natural Death	1 Kings 22:50
5	Jehoram		Natural Death	2 Kings 8:24
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)		Killed by Jehu	2 Kings 9:27-28
NA	Athaliah - Not a king	Wife of Jehoram, daughter of Ahab	Put to death by the army	2 Kings 11:16
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)		Overthrown by his servants	2 Kings 14:1
8	Amaziah		Died from a conspiracy	2 Kings 14:19-21
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)		Natural Death	2 Kings 15:7
10	Jotham		Natural Death	2 Kings 15:38
11	Ahaz		Natural Death	2 Kings 16:20
12	Hezekiah		Natural Death	2 Kings 20:21
13	Manasseh		Natural Death	2 Kings 21:18
14	Amon		Overthrown by his servants	2 Kings 21:26
15	Josiah		Killed by Pharaoh Neco	2 Kings 23:29-30
16	Jehoahaz		Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco	2 Kings 23:33
17	Jehoiakim	Son of Josiah	Bound & a donkey's burial	2 Chr. 36:6, Jer. 22:19
18	Jehoiachin		Imprisoned by king of Babylon	2 Kings 24:15-17
19	Zedekiah	Son of Josiah & uncle of Jehoiachin	Imprisoned by king of Babylon	2 Kings 25:7
NA	Gedaliah (Governor)	Not a descendant of David	Ishmael & 10 men kill him	2 Kings 25:22

⁶ But he did not put the sons of the murderers to death, in obedience to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, as the Lord commanded, saying, “The fathers shall not be put to death for the sons, nor the sons be put to death for the fathers; but each shall be put to death for his own sin.”

We are told that Amaziah did not kill the sons of his father’s murders. This shows that the new king knew the law and obeyed it.

Verse 7

⁷ He killed ten thousand of the Edomite’s in the Valley of Salt, and took Sela by war, and named it Joktheel, as *it is* to this day.

King Amaziah had 300,000 men of war but he decided to add 100,000 additional troops from the tribe of Ephraim to insure a victory.

See 2 Chron. 25:5-10

⁵ Moreover, Amaziah assembled Judah and appointed them according to *their fathers’ households* under commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds throughout Judah and Benjamin; and he took a census of those from twenty years old and upward and found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, *able to go to war and handle spear and shield.* ⁶ He also hired a hundred thousand valiant warriors from Israel for a hundred talents of silver. ⁷ But a man of God came to him saying, “O king, do not let the army of Israel come with you, for the Lord is not with Israel *nor with* any of the sons of Ephraim. ⁸ But if you do go, do *it*, be strong for the battle; *yet* God will bring you down before the enemy, for God has the power to help and to bring down.” ⁹ Amaziah said to the man of God, “But what *are we* to do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?” And the man of God answered, “The Lord has much more to give you than this.” ¹⁰ Then Amaziah dismissed the troops which came to him from Ephraim, to go home; so their anger burned against Judah, and they returned home in fierce anger.

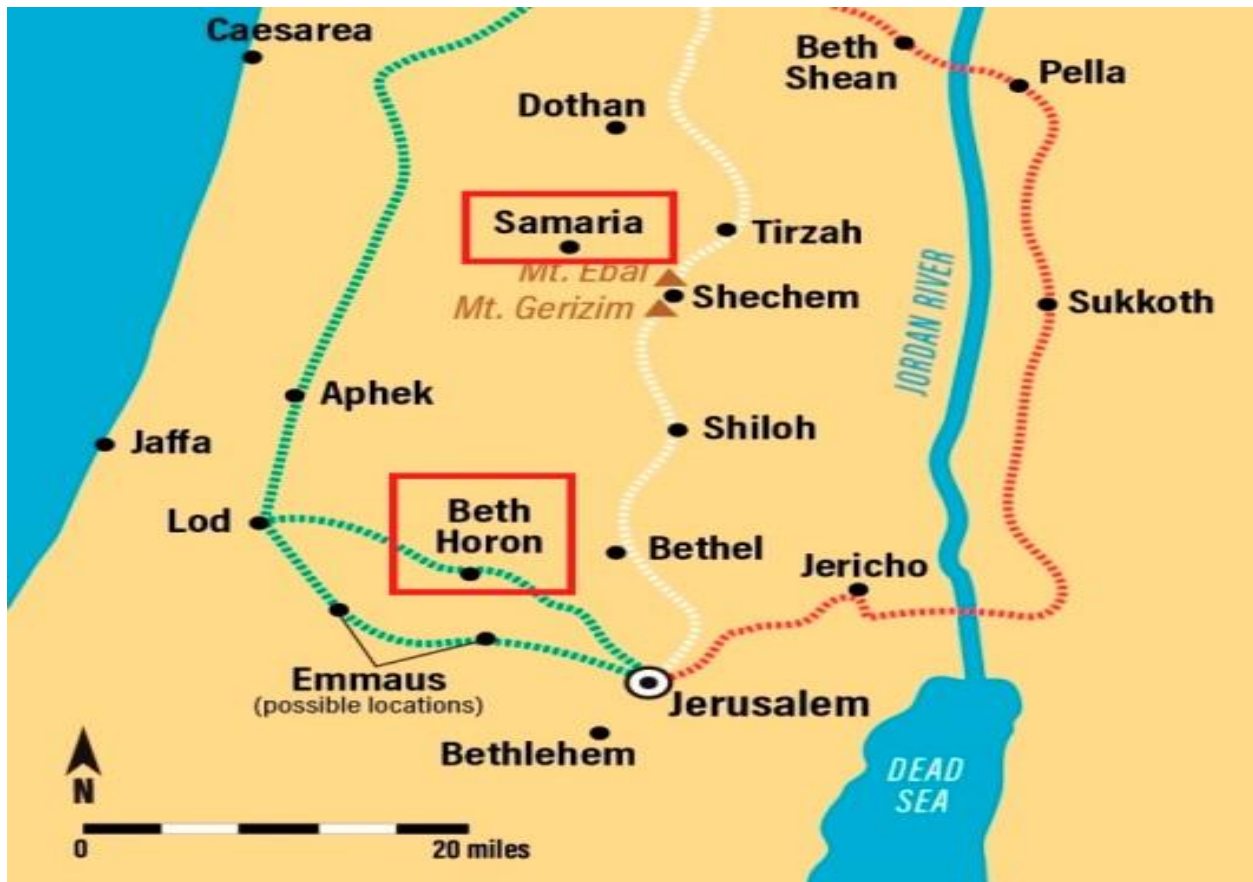
The men of Ephraim had received their pay for showing up but they were still very angry about being sent home.

These mercenaries wanted to go to war because this would give them an opportunity to gain some real wealth by looting the cities of Edom after the battle was won. To make up for this loss they decided to raid some cities in Judah on the way home.

See 2 Chronicles 25:13

¹³ But the troops whom Amaziah sent back, *those not going with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth-horon*, and struck and killed three thousand of them, and plundered a large amount of spoils.

See Map 1415



The area from Beth-Horon to Samaria is in the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh. So why does the author say the cities of Judah?

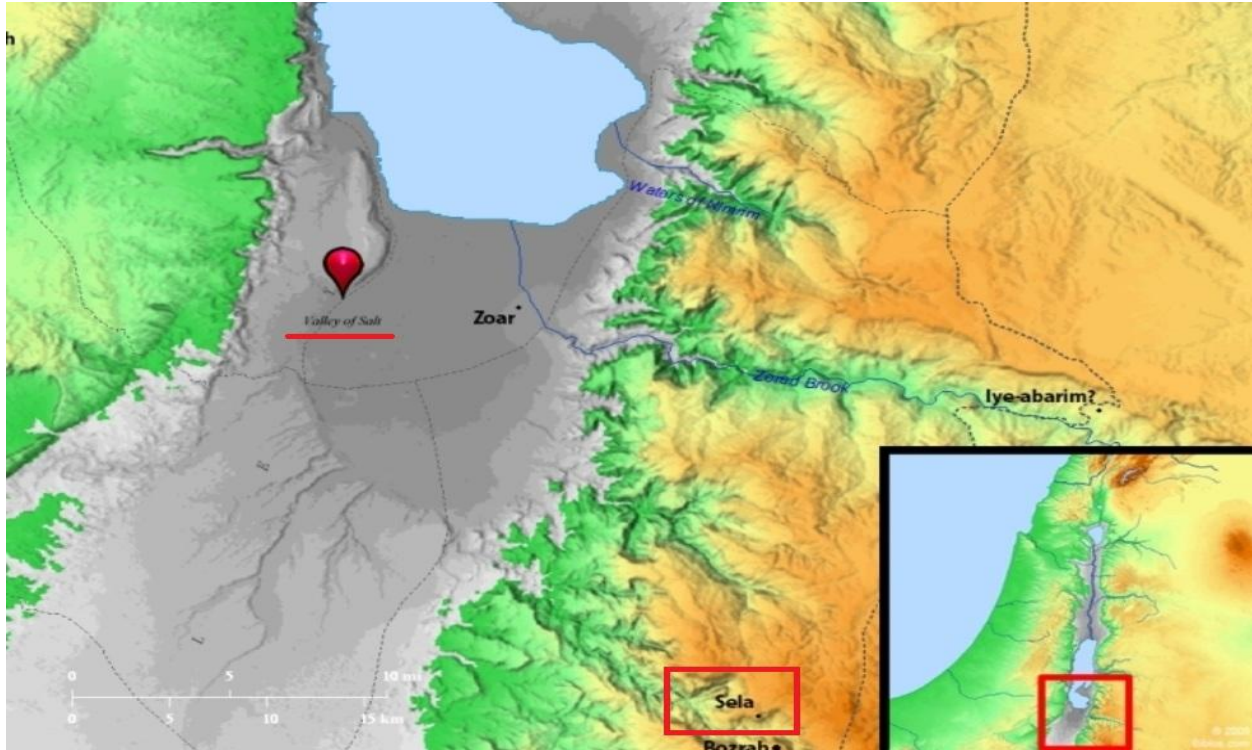
Nevertheless, these men could have used the advice of John the Baptist.

See Luke 3:14

¹⁴ And soldiers also were questioning him, saying, “What are we to do, we as well?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone, nor harass *anyone*, and be content with your wages.”

The battle between Judah and Edom took place in the valley of Salt.

See pic 1420



There are some gory details concerning this war

See 2 Chron. 25:11-12

¹¹ Now Amaziah gathered his courage and led his people out, and went to the Valley of Salt, and struck and killed ten thousand of the sons of Seir. ¹² The sons of Judah also captured ten thousand alive and brought them to the top of the cliff, and threw them down from the top of the cliff so that they were all dashed to pieces.

The city of Sela (see map above) means, the rock, but after the battle it was renamed Joktheel. Later it was given the name Petra by the Romans.

The city of Petra is the sight of a historic city in southern Jordan that is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit systems.

See video 1425 8.23 Petra

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.23.html>

There is a second video that adds some additional details that are quite interesting.

See videos 1430 8.22 Petra

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.22.html>

Verses 8 - 14

⁸ Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let’s face each other *in combat*.” ⁹ But Jehoash king of Israel sent *messengers* to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thorn bush that was in Lebanon sent *word* to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son in marriage.’ But a wild animal that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thorn bush. ¹⁰ You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart is elated. Enjoy the glory and stay home; for why should you get involved in trouble so that you would fall, you and Judah with you?” ¹¹ But Amaziah would not listen. So Jehoash king of Israel went up; and they faced each other, he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. ¹² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and they fled, every man to his tent. ¹³ Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits. ¹⁴ And he took all the gold and silver and all the utensils which were found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king’s house, the hostages as well, and returned to Samaria.

⁸ Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let’s face each other *in combat*.”

It seems that the victory over Edom without the troops from Ephraim became a point of pride in the heart Amaziah.

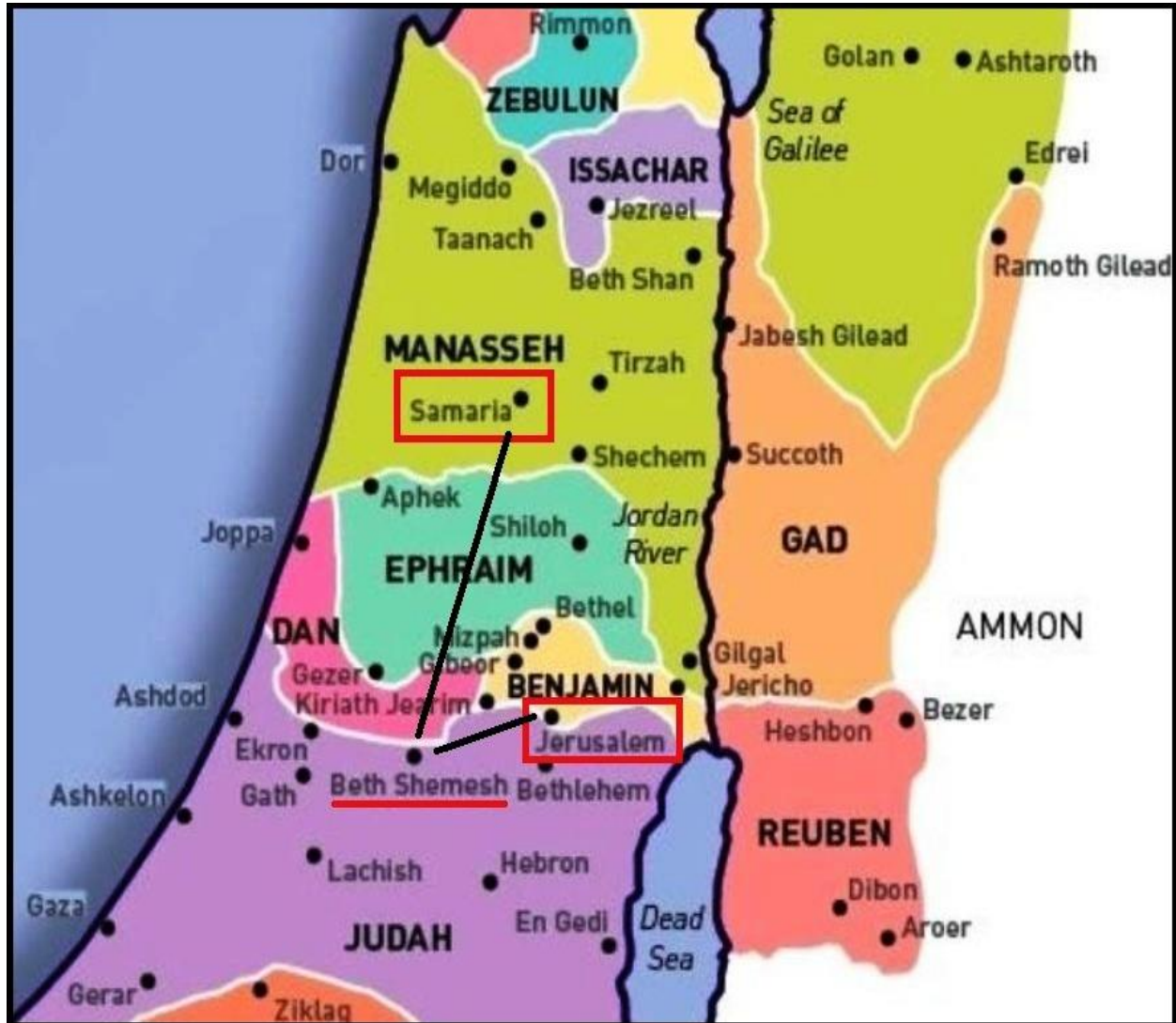
⁹ But Jehoash king of Israel sent *messengers* to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thorn bush that was in Lebanon sent word to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son in marriage.’ But a wild animal that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thorn bush. ¹⁰ You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart is elated. Enjoy the glory and stay home; for why should you get involved in trouble so that you would fall, you and Judah with you?”

Jehoash reminded Amaziah that he was just a thorn bush compared to him (the cedar tree) but the pride of Amaziah blinded him to the truth.

Being prideful about a victory over an enemy is a mistake that anyone could make but the fact that Amaziah failed to consult a prophet before he went into battle tells us that he had forgotten or had no desire to put his trust in the Lord.

¹¹ But Amaziah would not listen. So Jehoash king of Israel went up; and they faced each other at Beth-shemesh.

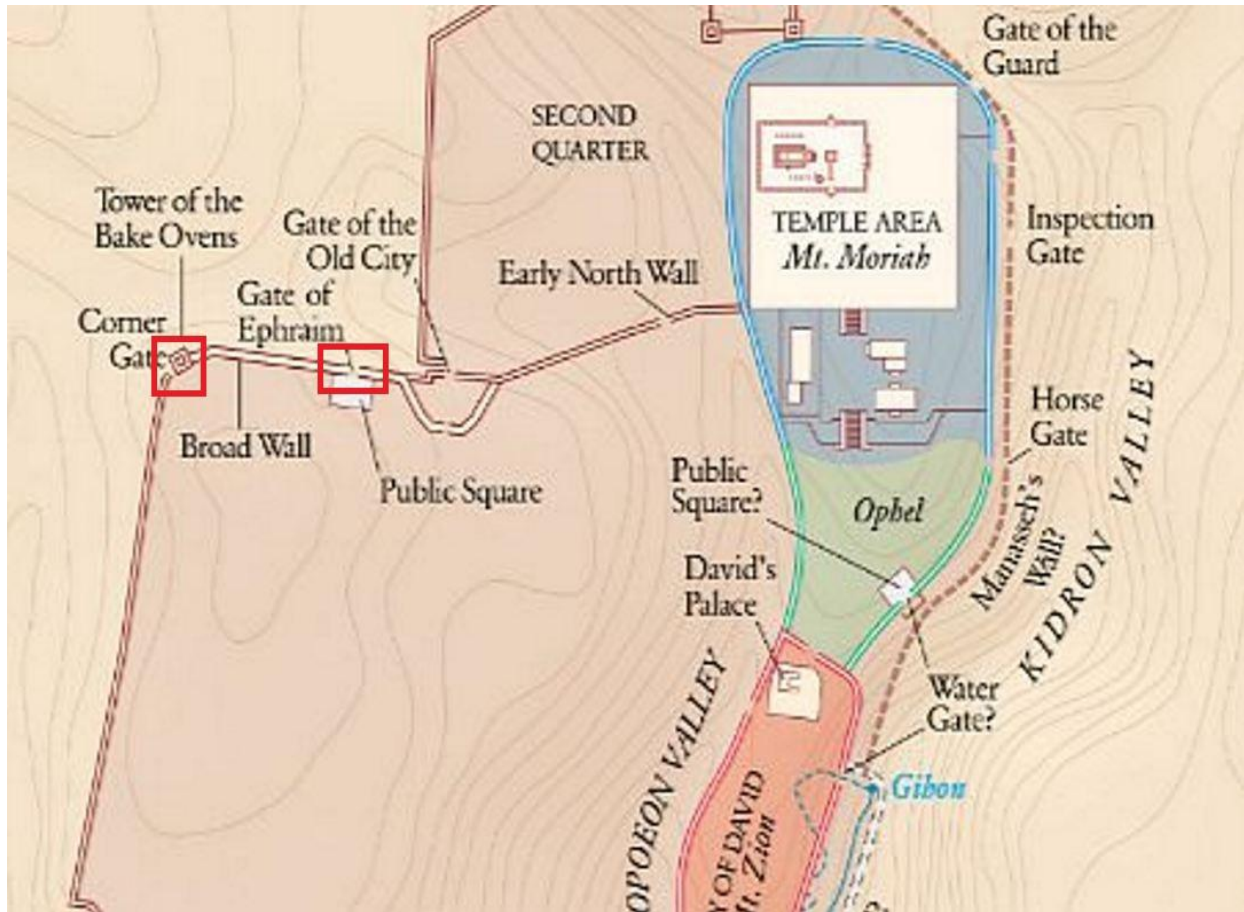
See map 1435



¹³ Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits.

Jehoash tore down 200 yards of the wall that surrounded Jerusalem.

See pic 1440



¹⁴ And he took all the gold and silver and all the utensils which were found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king's house, the hostages as well, and returned to Samaria.

Jehoash proceeded to loot the temple and the king's house and then returned home.

The fact that God did not help Amaziah defend the temple is an indication that this was a judgment on the king for bringing the gods of the Edomites back to Jerusalem and setting them up as his gods and worshipping them.

See 2 Chronicles 25:14 - 15

¹⁴ Now after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up as his gods. Then he bowed down before them and burned incense to them. ¹⁵ So the anger of the Lord burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people who have not saved their own people from your hand?"

Verses 15 -16

¹⁵ Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Jehoash that he did, and his might and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ¹⁶ So Jehoash lay down with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and his son Jeroboam became king in his place.

It is not specifically stated that the looting of the temple brought his reign to an end but right after that act the next two verses declare the end of his reign.

Verses 17 - 22

¹⁷ Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel. ¹⁸ Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ¹⁹ They formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent *men* to Lachish after him and they killed him there. ²⁰ Then they carried him on horses, and he was buried in Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David. ²¹ And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. ²² He built Elath and restored it to Judah after the king lay down with his fathers.

¹⁷ Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel.

It is amazing that Amaziah managed to live for 15 years after the following events:

1. He took the gods of Edom and worshipped them.
2. Jehoash destroyed 200 yards of the Jerusalem wall.
3. Jehoash looted the temple and the king's house.

Normally this would have sparked a quick revolt and the crowning of a new king. So why did the people wait for 15 years?

His son Azariah was only one year old at the time (see verse 21) and the people wanted a "son of David" to sit on the throne so they waited until the boy reached an age where he could function as the king.

¹⁹ They formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent *men* to Lachish after him and they killed him there.

The people rebelled against the king because he had turned away from the Lord.

See 2 Chronicles 25:27

²⁷ From the time that Amaziah turned away from following the Lord they conspired against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent *men* after him to Lachish, and they killed him there.

However, Amaziah became aware of the conspiracy and fled to Lachish.

See map 1445



Lachish was located 35 miles southwest of Jerusalem and it was the second largest city in Judah.

It sat on an elevated plain surrounded by a vast area of farm land.

See pic 1450

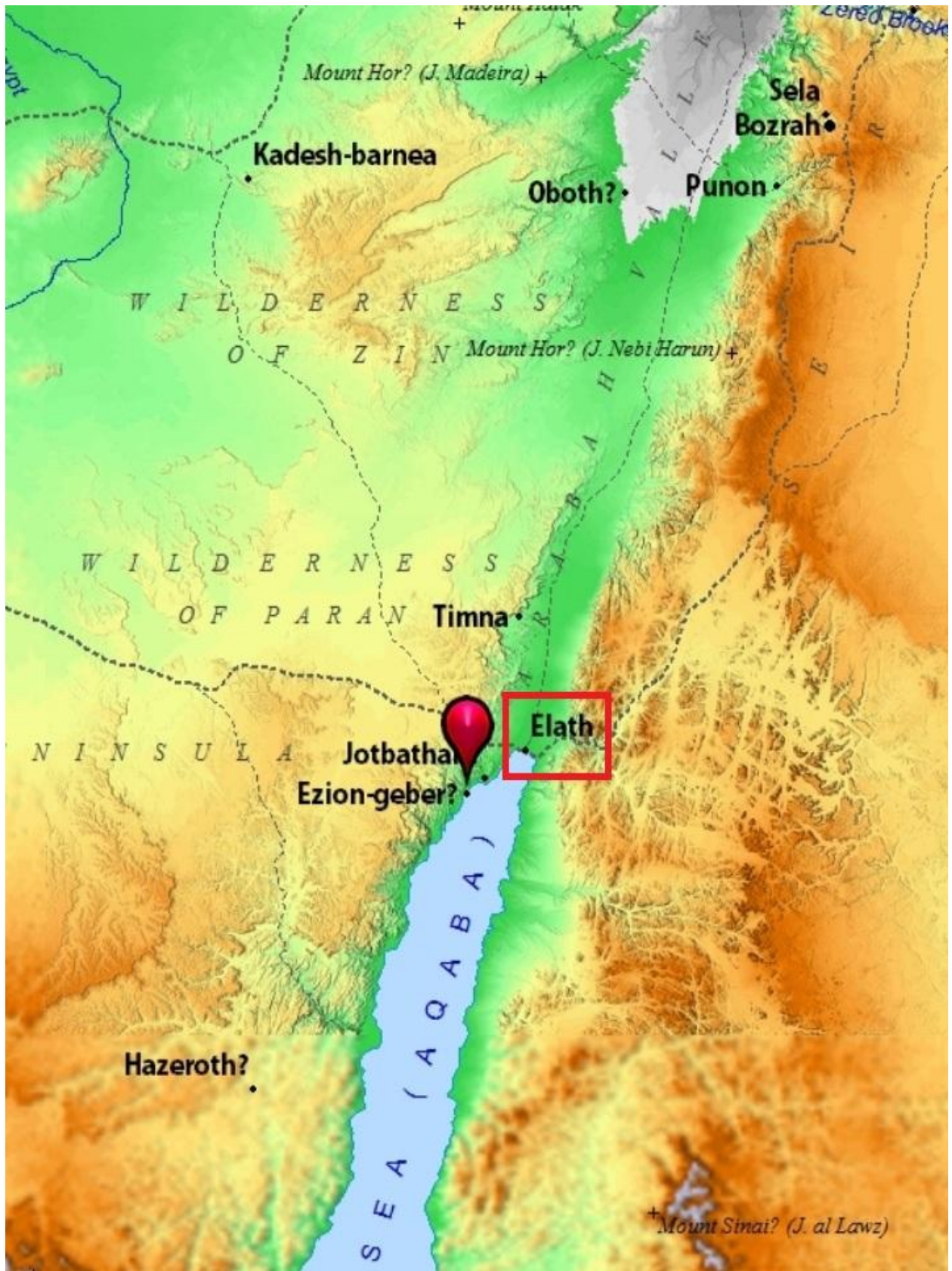


21 And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.

Azariah, who was also known as Uzziah, became king at the age of 16.

22 He built Elath and restored it to Judah after the king lay down with his fathers.

Elath was the first place that the Israelites camped at after leaving Egypt. The exact location of this place is not known. However we do know that the southern border of Israel was near the northern end of the Sea of Aquabah so this location seems reasonable. See map 1455



Verses 23 - 29

²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned* for forty-one years. ²⁴ He did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not abandon all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel. ²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. ²⁶ For the Lord saw the misery of Israel, *which was very bitter*; for there was neither bond nor free *spared*, nor was there any helper for Israel. ²⁷ Yet the Lord did not say that He would wipe out the name of Israel from under heaven, but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. ²⁸ Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Jeroboam and all that he did and his might, how he fought and how he recovered for Israel Damascus and Hamath, *which had belonged* to Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ²⁹ And Jeroboam lay down with his fathers, with the kings of Israel, and his son Zechariah became king in his place.

²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned* for forty-one years.

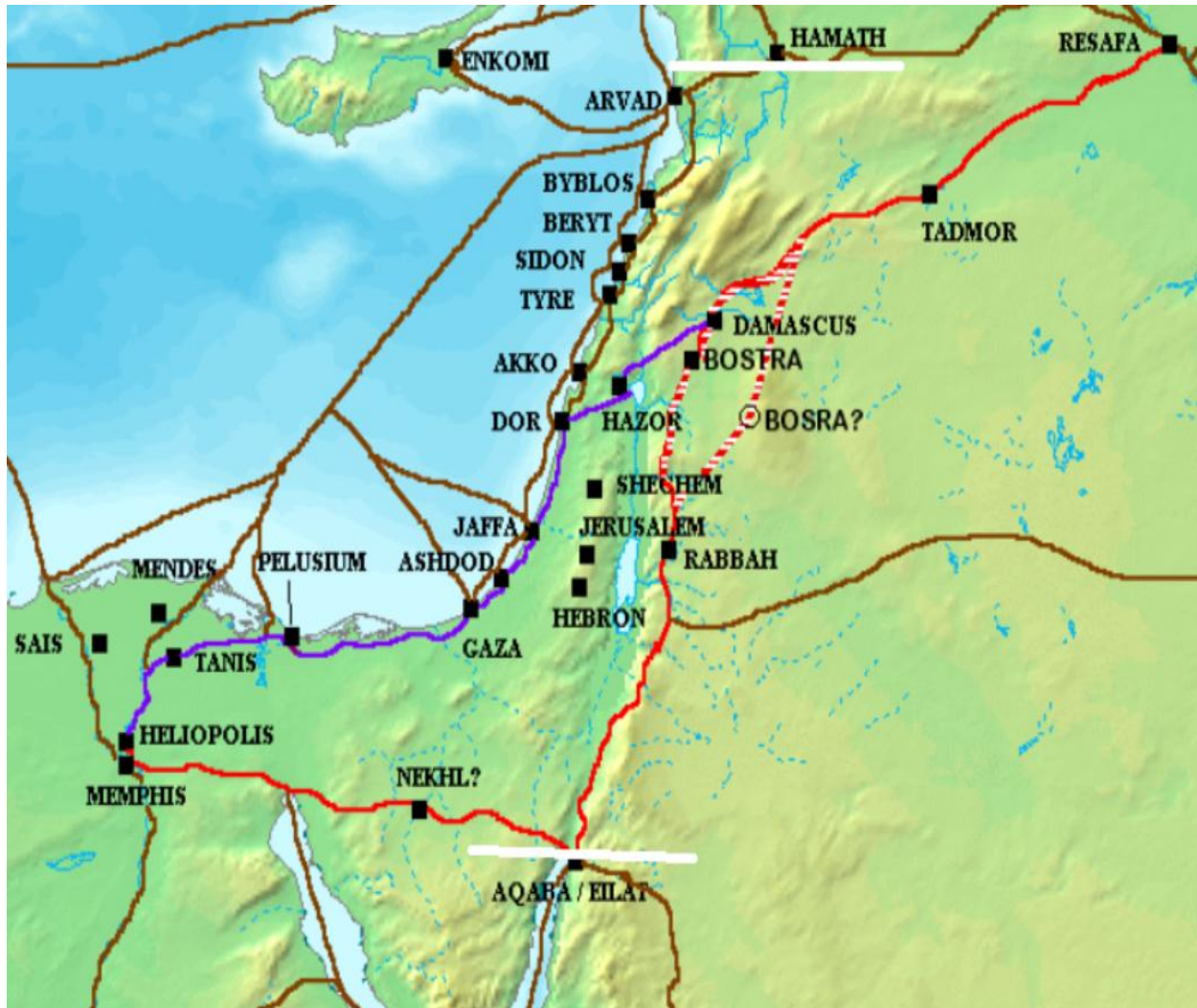
See chart 1460

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jehu	841	814	28	
11	Jehoahaz	814	798	17	
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	798	782	16	
13	Jeroboam II	793/782	753	41	11 years
14	Zechariah	753	752	6 months	
15	Shallum	752	752	1 month	
16	Menahem	752	742	10	
17	Pekahiah	742	740	2	
18	Pekah	752	732	20	
19	Hoshea	732	722	9	

²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.

Under his kingship the territory of Israel was restored to the borders that existed during the time of King Solomon.

See Maps 1465 The area between the two white lines



His reign became the new high point of Israel's prosperity.

Jonah the prophet from Gath-hepher prophesied the good news about Israel being delivered from the oppression of Syria but the prophet Amos was sent to deliver the bad news concerning the northern kingdom.

See Amos 7:8 – 9

⁸ And the Lord said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

**“Behold I am about to put a plumb line
In the midst of My people Israel.
I will not spare them any longer.**

**⁹ The high places of Isaac will become deserted,
And the sanctuaries of Israel will be in ruins.
Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”**

The house of Jeroboam is a reference to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

²⁹ And Jeroboam lay down with his fathers, with the kings of Israel, and his son Zechariah became king in his place.

When it says “a king lay down with his fathers” this is a way of saying that he died a natural death.

Some people mistakenly think that Jeroboam II died by the sword because of what Amaziah says in Amos 7:11

¹¹ For this is what Amos says: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

However, Amaziah misinterpreted what Amos said in verse 9. Amos said that God would “rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword”, meaning the 10 northern tribes of Israel. Amaziah mistakenly thought he was referring to the house of Jeroboam II, the current king of northern Israel.

We are not sure who this person named Amaziah was but some scholars think he may have served as the “High Priest” to the golden calf at Bethel. This would explain his misunderstanding of what Amos said.