



THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER

GROUP/FAMILY

Session 8

- Watch the sermon “The Optimism Mandate” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 2 Kings 11-12
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Context

We have FINALLY arrived at the four good Kings of Judah in a row! You made it, team, so apply what there is to be learned from the pattern. The fact is that the pattern itself gives a teaching because the pattern barely qualifies as a pattern at all. It is practically uniform. Righteousness is exceptional.

Amaziah ruled Judah after the assassination of his father Joash, while Jeroboam II reigned in Israel during a period of political stability and territorial expansion. The chapter reflects the covenant realities established in Deuteronomy: obedience brought blessing while persistent idolatry invited judgment. Assyria was growing in power to the northeast, though it had not yet reached the height of its dominance. The chapter demonstrates God's sovereignty over nations, kings, military victories, defeats, and territorial boundaries. It also reveals the tragic pattern of partial obedience, human pride, and divine mercy that characterized much of Israel's history.

The Big Idea of the Text

Amaziah achieved victories but fell through pride, while God mercifully restored Israel's borders during Jeroboam II's reign.

Connecting the Session to the Sermon

Second Kings 14 continues many themes introduced in 2 Kings 13. Both chapters emphasize God's sovereign control over kings and nations despite widespread spiritual decline. In chapter 13, Jehoahaz and Joash experienced God's mercy even though Israel continued in sin. Likewise, in chapter 14, Jeroboam II benefited from God's compassion toward Israel despite the nation's ongoing rebellion. Both chapters show that military victories ultimately came from the Lord rather than human strength. Elisha's final prophecy in chapter 13 anticipated victories over Aram, while chapter 14 records further national restoration and expansion.

Biblical Text (CSB) - 2 Kings 14:1-14

In the second year of Israel's King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, Amaziah son of Joash became king of Judah. ²He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem. ³He did what was right in the Lord's sight, but not like his ancestor David. He did everything his father Joash had done. ⁴Yet the high places were not taken away, and the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.

⁵As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, Amaziah killed his servants who had killed his father the king. ⁶However, he did not put the children of the killers to death, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses where the Lord commanded, "Fathers are not to be put to death because of children, and children are not to be put to death because of fathers; instead, each one will be put to death for his own sin."

⁷Amaziah killed ten thousand Edomites in Salt Valley. He took Sela in battle and called it Joktheel, which is still its name today. ⁸Amaziah then sent messengers to Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, and challenged him: "Come, let's meet face to face."

⁹King Jehoash of Israel sent word to King Amaziah of Judah, saying, "The thistle in Lebanon once sent a message to the cedar in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife.' Then a wild animal in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle. ¹⁰You have indeed defeated Edom, and you have become overconfident. Enjoy your glory and stay at home. Why should you stir up such trouble that you fall—you and Judah with you?"

¹¹But Amaziah would not listen, so King Jehoash of Israel advanced. He and King Amaziah of Judah met face to face at Beth-shemesh that belonged to Judah. ¹²Judah was routed before Israel, and each man fled to his own tent. ¹³King Jehoash of Israel captured Judah's King Amaziah son of Joash, son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh. Then Jehoash went to Jerusalem and broke down two hundred yards of Jerusalem's wall from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. ¹⁴He took all the gold and silver, all the articles found in the Lord's temple and in the treasuries of the king's palace, and some hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

Applying Our Lives to the Text

- In verses 1-4, how did Amaziah imitate both the strengths and weaknesses of his father, and what does this reveal about inherited leadership patterns?
- According to verses 5-6, why did Amaziah spare the children of his father's assassins, and how did this demonstrate submission to God's law?
- As you examine verse 7, how might Amaziah's military success against Edom have tested his character more severely than adversity tested it?
- Reviewing verses 8-10, what warning did Jehoash communicate through the parable of the thornbush and cedar, and why was it ignored?
- Looking closely at verses 11-12, what specific choices led to Judah's defeat, and what lessons emerge regarding pride and accountability?
- In verses 13-14, how did the consequences of Amaziah's actions extend beyond himself, and what responsibility accompanies leadership before God?



The Takeaway: So What Church?

- There is just no point in trying to live the Christian life halfway. We have to be all-in for Jesus, so no more partial faithfulness - not in anything.
- We will be faithful to the Word in ALL things - not just some, not even most!

For Parents:

SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

This story teaches us that doing some right things is not the same as fully trusting and obeying God. King Amaziah listened to God's law in one situation, but later he became proud because of a victory God had given him. His pride caused him to make foolish choices that hurt both himself and his people. That helps us understand why God's people needed a better King. Long before Jesus was born, these kings showed that no ordinary person could perfectly lead God's people. Jesus is different. He never became proud, never ignored wisdom, and never sinned. This story points forward to Him because it makes us long for the perfect King God promised to send.

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- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
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ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.