

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 25

"Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth. Unite my heart to fear Your Name." (Ps 86:11)

This is yet another remarkable passage with lots to teach us! The previous chapter closed with a 'successful' conspiracy to overthrow the despotic rule of Joash who, like so many, began well but finished his own race in disgrace (24:24). Amaziah took over the reins of power in his 25th year. Like father, like son it appears his heart was divided. That division of constitution manifested itself in various incidents over the course of Amaziah's twenty-nine-year reign. These were the key questions that confronted him:

1. Was he right to execute the conspirators who killed his father Joash?
2. Was he right to spare the conspirators' children?
3. Was he right to re-establish a strong military force in the South?
4. Was he right to hire 100,000 supplementary fighting men from Israel in the north?
5. Was he right to be concerned about the monetary cost of his strategic mistake?
6. Was he right to discharge the soldiers telling them they weren't needed?
7. Was he right to go to war against Seir?
8. Was he right to kill 10,000 captives, taken alive, by throwing them off the top of a high rock?
9. Was he right to return home to Judah with the various Edomite idols and burn incense to them?
10. Was he right to refuse the word of the prophet that rebuked him for seeking false gods?
Was he right to threaten him with death?
11. Was he right to challenge Joash, king of Israel?
12. Was he right to spurn the king's reply?

The answers would seem to be: possibly, yes, yes, no, no, yes, probably, no, no, no and twice probably not. Do you get the picture? The plain impression we're left with is that Amaziah was characteristically equivocal – unable or unwilling to make up his mind and take a principled stand. I reckon I've a few Christian friends just like this. They seem to know well enough what Scripture teaches on any particular front but they lack the conviction (or courage) to carry it through. Too often in such cases they're paralysed by the prospect of others looking on criticising them.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe." (Prov 29:25)

Of course, we all want to avoid the opposite extreme – i.e. becoming the impulsive hot-head for whom 'valour is the better part of discretion!' But oh, how refreshing it is to be in company with kindred spirits of whom it may be said,

"The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion." (Prov 28:1)

Notice that Amaziah died, like his father, an ignoble death at the hand of other conspirators. I suspect this curious providence was wrought by God in accordance with this principle:

"Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. He made a pit and dug it out and has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown." (Ps 7:14-16)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 25:

- *What was God's estimation of Amaziah? Was he a good or a bad king?*
- *Why does the narrative of 2Chronicles so frequently zero in on the king and his political decisions? What does this imply concerning the place of politics among Christians?*
- *How are we to redress the balance? What can we do to help our fellow brothers & sisters actually engage with the culture?*
- *The separation of 'religion' from 'politics' was a master stroke engineered by Satan. How much have you capitulated to this sort of thinking? What instruction have you received from your Church in 'rightly knowing the times' (Matt 16:3)*