

---

Day 166 - June 15

---

## The Divided Kingdom (930-725 BCE)

### *Era of Jeroboam II in Israel*

Readings: *2 Kings 12:21; 13:20-25; 14:1-16, 23-24; 2 Chronicles 25:5-24*

### **Reflections:**

- The stories of Israel's failure by this point feel like a merry-go-round. The surprising resurrection of the dead man thrown into Elisha's grave gives a dramatic foreshadowing of the resurrection. It is a reminder of the power of God that he can do the impossible, even bring the dead back to life.
- Key verse: "But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To this day he has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from his presence." This statement reminds us of how faithful and merciful God is. All this sin, idolatry, and rebellion and yet God remains faithful. We will see God's ultimate compassion and faithfulness when his Messiah appears and establishes a new covenant that will unleash God's grace and power to all people of faith.
- The story of the battle between Amaziah and Edom shows how messed up everyone is. Amaziah tries to hire additional soldiers to guarantee the win. He is confronted by a prophet to say if he tries to "buy" the victory, he is in for trouble with God. So he sends them away. These mercenaries were obviously just in it for the looting they could get out of a victory. They were fighting with only personal gain in mind. In their anger they go on a killing and pillaging rampage. Meanwhile Amaziah does win the battle but then shows how messed up he is. He ruthlessly and brutally kills some of his enemies by capturing them and then throwing them off a cliff. He also brings home idols to set up for worship. Talk about being a complete spiritual disaster! All of this brings a clear message from God's prophet that God is going to destroy Amaziah!
- It goes from bad to worse. God raises up Jehoash, king of Israel, to make war against Amaziah, king of Judah. He does defeat him and plunders the temple of God for gold and silver as well as destroy a big part of the walls of Jerusalem. So much for the Promised Land and a place of peace and worship of the one true God!
- This reading ends with the reign of Jeroboam II beginning. What a hopeful start to his reign: "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of

Jeroboam...which he had caused Israel to commit." Here we go again! Is it easy to see how the story of Israel is the story of "what doesn't work?" Painfully obvious, isn't it?