

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.2, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 2 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.2, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture analyzes the biblical account of King Amaziah from 2 Kings 13-14, comparing it with the parallel account in 2 Chronicles. He explores Amaziah's divided heart, doing what was right but without complete devotion, drawing parallels to individuals with outward morality but lacking genuine faith. The lecture examines Amaziah's success, his victory over the Edomites, and his subsequent foolish decision to challenge Israel. Oswalt highlights the consequences of Amaziah's pride and failure to seek God's guidance, leading to Judah's defeat and Amaziah's capture. He also discusses the complexities of God's forgiveness and the enduring consequences of sin, using Exodus 34 to illustrate these points.

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.2 – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



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3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.2, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 2

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. John Oswalt's session on 2 Kings 13-14, Part 2:

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 13-14 (Part 2) - Focus on Amaziah

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session24_2.pdf" (Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 24, Part 2)

Main Themes:

- **The Complexity of Obedience and a Divided Heart:** The central figure discussed is Amaziah, King of Judah. While Amaziah "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord," the parallel account in 2 Chronicles points out that he did not do it "with a perfect heart" (2 Chronicles 25:2). Oswalt uses this to explore the idea of compartmentalization in faith, where actions may appear righteous, but the inner devotion is lacking.
- **Consequences of Sin Despite Forgiveness:** Oswalt emphasizes that God's forgiveness does not negate the natural consequences of sin. He uses Exodus 34 (the renewal of the covenant after the golden calf) to illustrate God's compassionate nature, but also highlights the passage's statement about punishing children for the sins of the parents. He clarifies that this isn't about God directly punishing children, but rather the inevitable consequences of parental actions on their descendants.
- **The Danger of Presuming on God's Grace and Overconfidence:** Amaziah's victory over the Edomites leads to overconfidence and a challenge to the King of Israel (Jehoash) without seeking God's guidance. This results in defeat and humiliation for Judah. Oswalt uses this as a cautionary tale about presuming on God's grace and trusting in one's own abilities after experiencing success.
- **God's Kindness as a Potential Trap:** Oswalt posits that sometimes God's continued blessings despite shortcomings can lull people into a false sense of security, leading them to believe their actions are acceptable. He uses examples of fallen Christian leaders, suggesting that prolonged success despite moral failures can be a "terrible trap."

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Amaziah's Reign:** Amaziah became king at 25 and reigned for 29 years, some of which was spent in prison, and some with his son as co-regent.
- **Amaziah's Limited Righteousness:** While Amaziah executed his father's assassins, he followed the Law of Moses by not killing their children (2 Kings 14:5-6).
- **Exodus 34 as a foundational text:** Oswalt stresses the importance of Exodus 34 in understanding God's character as compassionate, gracious, and forgiving, but also just. This passage is frequently referenced throughout the Old Testament.
- **Consequences vs. Punishment:** Oswalt differentiates between God's direct punishment and the natural consequences of sin. He uses the example of a drunkard whose children suffer due to their parent's actions, not because God is directly punishing them.
- **Amaziah's Arrogant Challenge:** After defeating the Edomites, Amaziah challenges Jehoash, King of Israel, to battle (2 Kings 14:8). This decision was made without seeking God's guidance.
- **Jehoash's Response:** Jehoash responds with a parable of a thistle challenging a cedar, indicating the foolishness of Amaziah's challenge.
- **Judah's Defeat:** Judah is routed by Israel, Amaziah is captured, and Jerusalem is plundered, including the temple treasures and the city wall (2 Kings 14:13-14).
- **Amaziah's Assassination:** After Jehoash dies, Amaziah eventually dies from an assassination in Judah.

Notable Quotes:

- "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart." (Referring to Amaziah, quoting 2 Chronicles 25:2) - Highlights the theme of compartmentalized faith.
- "God's kindness, God's long-suffering can be a terrible trap. We presume on it." - Explains the danger of relying on continued blessings as validation of one's actions.
- "You decide to be a drunk, and your kids will pay for it. Not because God gets them, but just because in a world of cause and effect, there are consequences." - Clarifies the difference between God's punishment and natural consequences.
- "I won one fight. Let's go for it. Let's go for the gold ring." - Illustrates Amaziah's overconfidence and presumption.

- "Samson went out as before, not knowing that the Lord was not with him. So here goes Amaziah." - Oswalt uses the reference to Samson as an analogy to describe Amaziah's hubris and failure to seek God's will.

Implications/Applications:

- **Self-Reflection:** The passage encourages self-reflection on the genuineness of one's faith and the potential for compartmentalization.
- **Humility and Dependence on God:** It serves as a warning against pride and overconfidence, emphasizing the importance of seeking God's guidance in all decisions.
- **Understanding God's Character:** It provides a nuanced understanding of God's character as both forgiving and just, highlighting the importance of both repentance and acknowledging the consequences of sin.

This briefing document provides a summary of the key themes and ideas presented in the excerpt. The included quotes emphasize important points and offer a direct connection to the source material.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.2, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 2

The Divided Heart: A Study Guide to 2 Kings 13-14

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each, based on Dr. Oswalt's lecture.

1. What is significant about the description of Amaziah in 2 Chronicles 25:2?
2. What analogy does Dr. Oswalt make to illustrate the idea of doing what is right "but not with a perfect heart"?
3. According to Dr. Oswalt, what mistake did Asa make?
4. What specific act did Amaziah perform that aligned with the Law of Moses?
5. What is the context of Exodus 34 that makes it important for understanding God's character?
6. How does Dr. Oswalt interpret the phrase "punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation" in Exodus 34?
7. What is the significance of the victory God gave Amaziah over the Edomites?
8. What critical mistake did Amaziah make after his victory over the Edomites?
9. What analogy does Jehoash of Israel use to dismiss Amaziah's challenge?
10. What was the result of Amaziah's decision to challenge Israel?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The description of Amaziah in 2 Chronicles 25:2 is significant because it states that he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but "not with a perfect heart." This suggests a compartmentalization of his life, where outward actions don't necessarily reflect inward devotion.
2. Dr. Oswalt makes an analogy to farmers he knew growing up who were upright and trustworthy but did not have a personal relationship with Jesus. They were morally good people, but their hearts were not fully devoted to God, and this ultimately impacted their descendants.

3. According to Dr. Oswalt, Asa made the mistake of being ignorant of the scripture. He destroyed idols but did not fully eradicate pagan worship practices, suggesting a lack of complete understanding or obedience.
4. Amaziah followed the Law of Moses by not putting the children of the assassins to death, adhering to the principle that each person should die for their own sin and not for the sins of their parents. This shows at least some level of obedience to God's commands.
5. The context of Exodus 34 is the aftermath of the golden calf incident, where God is renewing the covenant with Israel after their blatant idolatry. This renewal highlights God's compassion, grace, and willingness to forgive, while also acknowledging the consequences of sin.
6. Dr. Oswalt interprets the phrase "punishing the children for the sin of the parents" not as direct punishment from God, but as the natural consequences of sin that impact future generations due to cause and effect. A parent's sinful choices, like alcoholism, can have devastating effects on their children.
7. The victory God gave Amaziah over the Edomites was a testament to God's power and willingness to bless those who follow Him, but it also set the stage for Amaziah's subsequent pride and foolish decision-making. The victory should have been a reminder to rely on God, not his own strength.
8. The critical mistake Amaziah made after his victory was challenging Jehoash, the king of Israel, to battle without seeking God's guidance. This act demonstrated his self-reliance and arrogance, leading to disastrous consequences.
9. Jehoash of Israel uses the analogy of a thistle challenging a cedar to marriage, only to be trampled by a wild beast. This illustrates the foolishness of Judah (the thistle) challenging Israel (the cedar), who is much stronger and will easily defeat them.
10. The result of Amaziah's decision to challenge Israel was a crushing defeat for Judah. Amaziah was captured, Jerusalem's walls were broken down, the temple and palace were looted, and hostages were taken, demonstrating the consequences of pride and disobedience.

Essay Questions

Consider these questions and develop well-supported essays based on the source material.

1. Discuss the concept of a "divided heart" as illustrated by Amaziah's reign, and its implications for faith and obedience. How does this concept relate to Dr. Oswalt's observations about faith and morality?
2. Analyze Dr. Oswalt's interpretation of Exodus 34 in light of Deuteronomy's commands regarding the punishment of children for their parents' sins. How does he reconcile these seemingly contradictory passages, and what does this reveal about God's justice and mercy?
3. Examine the role of pride and self-reliance in Amaziah's downfall. How did his initial success contribute to his subsequent failure, and what lessons can be drawn from this cautionary tale?
4. Compare and contrast the characters of Asa and Amaziah. What does Dr. Oswalt's discussion of each king reveal about the nature of faith, obedience, and leadership?
5. Discuss the role of consequences in the biblical narrative, particularly as it relates to sin and obedience. Use examples from the lecture to illustrate how choices have both immediate and long-term effects.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Amaziah:** King of Judah; son of Joash, known for his initial righteousness followed by pride and disastrous decisions.
- **Jehoash (of Israel):** King of Israel who defeats Amaziah in battle.
- **Exodus 34:** A key passage describing God's character, highlighting his compassion, grace, and justice.
- **"Perfect Heart":** Complete and undivided devotion to God, not just outward obedience.
- **Compartmentalization:** Separating one's life into different areas without allowing faith to influence all aspects.
- **Valley of Salt:** Site of Amaziah's victory over the Edomites.
- **Selah/Joktheel:** Edomite city captured by Amaziah and renamed.
- **High Places:** Local shrines or worship sites, often associated with pagan practices, that were supposed to be avoided by Israelites.
- **Deuteronomy:** The fifth book of the Old Testament, containing laws and commandments for the Israelites.
- **Consequences of Sin:** The natural and often far-reaching effects of sinful choices, impacting not only the individual but also their descendants.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 24.2, 2 Kings 13-14, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on 2 Kings 13-14 (Part 2) Based on Dr. Oswalt's Lecture

- **What is notable about Amaziah's reign, as described in 2 Kings 14 and 2 Chronicles 25?** Amaziah is described as doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not with a "perfect heart" (2 Chronicles 25:2). This suggests a compartmentalization in his life where he outwardly followed God's law but lacked complete devotion and sincerity in his heart. He didn't seek God in every decision, relying on his past successes instead.
- **What is the significance of the contrast between Amaziah and King Asa?** The contrast lies in their hearts. Asa is described as having a "perfect heart," implying complete devotion to the Lord, even if his actions weren't always perfect due to ignorance. Amaziah, on the other hand, lacked this wholehearted devotion despite outward obedience.
- **How did Amaziah demonstrate obedience to the Law of Moses, and what does this reveal about his character?** Amaziah executed the officials who assassinated his father but refrained from killing their children, in accordance with the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 24:16). This act of obedience shows that he was familiar with and respected certain aspects of God's law, even if his heart was not fully devoted to God.
- **How does Dr. Oswalt interpret Exodus 34:6-7, particularly the phrase about God punishing children for the sins of their parents?** Dr. Oswalt clarifies that this passage does not contradict Deuteronomy's prohibition against punishing children for their parents' sins. Instead, it refers to the natural consequences of sin. While God forgives those who repent, the effects of their actions can still impact future generations, not as direct punishment, but as a result of cause and effect. A parent's choices, like alcoholism, can negatively affect their children's lives, but the children are not being *punished* for the parent's sin.
- **What was the significance of Amaziah's victory over the Edomites?** Amaziah's victory over the Edomites led to a period of pride and self-reliance. He credited his own ability instead of acknowledging God's role in his success. This overconfidence prompted him to challenge Israel, a decision that ultimately led to his downfall.

- **How does the lecture illustrate the dangers of presuming on God's grace and long-suffering?** Amaziah's story serves as an example of how God's kindness and continued blessings can become a "terrible trap." Because God does not immediately punish him for his pride and self-reliance, Amaziah presumes that his actions are acceptable. This presumption leads him to make a foolish decision, resulting in defeat and imprisonment.
- **Why was Amaziah's decision to challenge Jehoash, the king of Israel, considered foolish?** Judah was weaker than Israel in terms of military strength, wealth, and territory. Amaziah's decision to initiate a conflict was driven by pride and self-reliance, rather than seeking God's guidance or assessing the situation realistically. He should have taken into account the relative strength of the kingdoms.
- **What happened to Amaziah after his defeat by Jehoash of Israel?** After being defeated by Jehoash, Amaziah was captured and imprisoned. Jehoash broke down a significant portion of Jerusalem's wall, looted the temple and royal palace, took hostages, and returned to Samaria. Amaziah lived for 15 years after this defeat, possibly spending much of that time in prison. He was eventually assassinated in Judah.