

21.17 Judah's Amaziah⁹ ☹ (2 Kings 14:1–20; 2 Chronicles 25:1–28)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *high places*: God said to worship Him in Jerusalem, but people worshiped God in elevated places called “high places” closer to home. Later, idol worship of former times resumed in these high places.
- *talents of silver*: Each silver talent is worth \$1642.50. Thus, 100 talents would be \$164,250.00—enough to buy a house. [It would take more than 1½ hours to count to 1642 if each number took two seconds to count.]
- *spoils*: the money, goods, animals, and everything taken from the enemy when battles were won
- *city walls*: In order to protect the people of a city, walls were built around it. If a wall broke down, the city, of course, was unprotected.

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 14:1 In the second year of [Jehoash] the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, began to reign. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem. 3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not like David his father. He did in all things as Joash his father had done. 4 But the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. 5 And as soon as the royal power was firmly in his hand, he struck down his servants who had struck down the king his father. 6 But he did not put to death the children of the murderers, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, where the Lord commanded, “Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. But each one shall die for his own sin.”

2 Chronicles 25:5 Then Amaziah assembled the men of Judah and set them by fathers’ houses under commanders of thousands and of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin. He mustered those twenty years old and upward, and found that they were 300,000 choice men, fit for war, able to handle spear and shield. 6 He hired also 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 100 talents of silver. 7 But a man of God came to him and said, “O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the Lord is not with Israel, with all these Ephraimites. 8 But go, act, be strong for the battle. Why should you suppose that God will cast you down before the enemy? For God has power to help or to cast down.” 9 And Amaziah said to the man of God, “But what shall we do about the hundred talents that I have given to the army of Israel?” The man of God answered, “The Lord is able to give you much more than this.” 10 Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim to go home again. And they became very angry with Judah and returned home in fierce anger. 11 But Amaziah took courage and led out his people and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 men of Seir. 12 The men of Judah captured another 10,000 alive and took them to the top of a rock and threw them down from the top of the rock, and they were all dashed to pieces. 13 But the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, not letting them go with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 people in them and took much spoil.

14 After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them. 15 Therefore the Lord was angry with Amaziah and sent to him a prophet, who said to him, “Why have you sought the gods of a people who did not deliver their own people from your hand?” 16 But as he was speaking, the king said to him, “Have we made

you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?” So the prophet stopped, but said, “I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel.”

2 Kings 14:8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let us look one another in the face.” 9 And Jehoash king of Israel sent word to Amaziah king of Judah, “A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son for a wife,’ and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle. 10 You have indeed struck down Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Be content with your glory, and stay at home, for why should you provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?”

11 But Amaziah would not listen. [2 Chronicles 25:20 for it was of God, in order that he might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought the gods of Edom.] So Jehoash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-shemesh,¹ which belongs to Judah. 12 And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his home. 13 And Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of [Joash], son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem for four hundred cubits, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. 14 And he seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the Lord and in the treasuries of the king’s house, also hostages, and he returned to Samaria.

15 Now 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 And Jehoash slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel, and Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.

17 Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. 18 Now the rest of the deeds of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 19 And they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there. 20 And they brought him on horses; and he was buried in Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

Introduction/Review:

David was the grandfather of all the kings of Judah but not of the kings of Israel. God had said David’s kingdom would last forever. David was not perfect, but he did love the Lord with all his heart. He worshiped God, writing many psalms, which show this great love. God was pleased with David’s devotion to Him.

Joash, king of Judah [locate], had been a good king while his Uncle Jehoiada had guided him. But after Jehoiada died, Joash followed the advice of his friends and led the people to worship idols. When Jehoiada’s son tried to warn him not to forsake the Lord, what did Joash do? [Stoned him.] For these wicked sins, God took vengeance on Joash and judged him. How did he do that? [Caused Syria to war against Judah; had Joash get wounded; had Joash’s two servants slay him.]

Story:

Clues about Amaziah

After King Joash of Judah died, his son, Amaziah, became king. He was twenty-five years old. Let’s consider some clues to decide whether or not Ahaziah was a good king. The Bible says that “he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not like David his father with a blameless heart” (2 Chronicles 25:2; 2 Kings 14:3), but “he did in all things as Joash his father had done” (2 Kings 14:3). “The high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places” (2 Kings 14:4).

Let’s take these verses apart and see what we can learn.

Clue #1: “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.” That means he followed the Lord—at least for a while.

Clue #2: He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord . . . “yet not like David his father with a blameless heart.” How had David followed the Lord with a blameless heart? He had loved the Lord and had led the

people in worship of the only true and living God. The Bible does not state that Amaziah, the ninth king of Judah, also served God with a blameless heart.

Clue #3: “He did in all things as Joash his father had done.” This makes me a little suspicious. Joash had started out well but ended up poorly. Would Amaziah also lead the people to worship idols?

Clue #4: What did Amaziah do about the high places? “The high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.” Oh, those high places again! That little bit of a change from God’s command—doing things one’s own way instead of God’s way. This isn’t sounding good.

Stories about Amaziah

We can learn more from four stories about King Amaziah.

Story #1: How had Amaziah’s father, Joash, died? [His two servants slew him.] The first king duty Amaziah performed was to execute those two servants who had slain his father. Sometimes kings would also slay the children of the murderers, but Amaziah slew only those servants and not their children according to what Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 24:16: “Children [shall not be] put to death for their fathers.” Oh, good for you, Amaziah; ✓you’re reading the Bible as God told His kings to do!

Story #2: Amaziah organized his army. He counted all the men of Judah who were twenty years old or more who were fit for war—who could handle a spear and a sword. He had 300,000 soldiers. Wow! That’s 200,000 more than King Jehoahaz of Israel had in our last story. [Show chart.] Sounds like a big army to me. But Amaziah didn’t think it was big enough for him, so he hired 100,000 more men from Israel. I don’t know how Israel was able to find another 100,000 men, but he paid 100 talents of silver (\$164,250) to have them join his army. That’s a lot of money!

Did God want Amaziah to hire soldiers from Israel? No. Why not? Weren’t they “brothers” or cousins? They may have been cousins, but the Israelites had forsaken God and were Judah’s enemies. A long time before God had not wanted Jehoshaphat to join with Ahab in war. Because Israel had forsaken God, God was not for them nor for joining with them.

A man of God came to Amaziah and proclaimed, “O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the Lord is not with Israel. If you think these men from Israel will make you strong for war, know this: God will cast you down before the enemy. God has power to help or to cast down.”

“But what about all the money I paid for these soldiers?” Amaziah ✓wailed.

“God is able to give you much more than that,” answered the man of God.

So Amaziah sent those hired soldiers back to Israel. This made those soldiers FURIOUS! [Teacher, speak as an offended and angry Israelite soldier.] ✓“I was hoping to get a lot of spoils from fighting in this army. What kind of a fool is Amaziah to send us back home without letting us to go to war! The more I think about it, the madder I get! First he wants us; then he doesn’t! Oh, I am so angry, I feel like raiding Judah!”

And that’s just what they did. While Amaziah took his 300,000 soldiers off to fight against Edom [locate], these soldiers from Israel raided cities of Judah from Samaria [locate] to Beth Horon [locate west of Bethel] and slew 3,000 people. They got their spoil all right; the Bible states they “carried off great quantities of plunder”—animals, money, goods (2 Chronicles 25:13)—from Judah, their cousins!

Story #3: Meanwhile, Amaziah was very successful in his war against Edom, for he slew 20,000 men. Those Edomites did not worship the one true God. Did their idols help them? [No.] Yet, Amaziah ✓thought those false gods were special somehow, for he brought them back to Judah, set them up as his own gods, bowed down to them, and burned sacrifices to them.

Oh, no! Is this what can happen when a person serves God with only part of his devotion—just as some today show devotion to God at church only on Sunday but not during the rest of the week? Rather, a true Christian serves the Lord with all of his heart all of the time. God gives us grace to be totally devoted to

him. If that is the case, we won't be deceived into thinking that some false god is better than our true God.

What did God think about Amaziah's turning to the gods of Edom? He was angry. The Bible says "The anger of the Lord burned against Amaziah" (2 Chronicles 25:19). God sent a prophet to him, who said, "Why do you seek this people's gods, which could not save their own people from you?"

Here, again, a prophet was telling a king what he had done wrong. Would the king accept the pain of the scolding and repent, or would he inflict pain upon the messenger? Before the prophet had even finished talking, King Amaziah ordered, "Stop talking. Did I appoint you to be an advisor to the king? Stop, or you will be struck down!"

The prophet stopped talking except for one more sentence: "I know God has decided to destroy you because you have done this and have not listened to my advice." What did the prophet say would happen to King Amaziah? [God would destroy him.]

Story #4: Amaziah paid no attention to this prophet of God, but he did listen to his own advisers. Since they had had such success in their war against Edom, Amaziah decided to declare war on Jehoash, king of Israel. This is the same king who had shot the arrow out the east window and had struck the ground three times with the arrows, showing he would defeat Syria three times.

"Let's meet each other face to face," Amaziah challenged Jehoash.

King Jehoash of Israel responded with a little story. He said, "A thistle sent a message to a cedar tree, saying, 'Give your cedar tree daughter to my thistle plant son to marry.' But," continued the storyteller, Jehoash, "a wild animal came and trampled the thistle plant, breaking it in pieces. You, Amaziah, say to yourself that you have defeated Edom. Now you are proud and arrogant. Stay at home! Why ask for trouble that will cause you to fall and cause Judah to fall also?"

Do you see what was happening? Amaziah [locate Judah] wanted to fight Jehoash [locate Israel], but Jehoash seemed to know this would result in trouble for Amaziah and Judah. Was Jehoash right?

Amaziah would not listen to Jehoash. He thought his army was so great (it was, after all, three times larger than Jehoash's army) that they would beat Israel in the war. But the Bible says, "God worked to hand Judah over to Jehoash because Amaziah had sought the gods of Edom" (2 Chronicles 25:20). It was pay-back time for Amaziah. God would take vengeance.

Since Amaziah insisted, Jehoash went ahead and fought Judah. Who won the war? Jehoash, king of Israel, won the war. Judah's soldiers ran away back to their homes. Jehoash captured Amaziah and took him to Jerusalem² where he tore down two city blocks' worth of Jerusalem's walls, leaving it unprotected from enemies and wild animals. Then Jehoash took all the gold and silver in the Temple, all the gold and silver of the king's house, and some of the people, and then went back to Samaria [locate]. ✓It was one of the worst defeats Judah had ever experienced.

Story #5: Jehoash was kind enough to let Amaziah stay in Jerusalem. Amaziah lived fifteen years longer than Jehoash did, but, as in his father Joash's case, people wanted to get rid of him. They made plans to get him in Jerusalem [locate]. Amaziah escaped from Jerusalem and went to Lachish [locate about 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem]. Those who conspired against him followed and found him in Lachish and slew him there.

"He did in all things as Joash his father had done." Amaziah started out pretty well, but he ended very poorly, getting what he deserved even as his father.

¹Searching for Beth-shemesh on maps, this author found two cities named Beth-shemesh; one, not shown on the map below, is located near the southern tip of the Sea of Galilee, clearly in Israel. The Beth-shemesh, scene of the battle against Israel in this lesson, is specified as that "which belongs to Judah" (2 Kings 14:11) and is located almost directly west of Jerusalem.

²According to John Gill, Amaziah sent back to Jerusalem ([2 Kings 14:13 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-kings/14/13-meaning-and-commentary-on-bible-verse.html)). The Scripture gives no other place where Amaziah lived out his days.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
Some kings of Judah, like Joash and Amaziah started out serving God well but ended up forsaking God. Other kings in Judah followed the Lord all the days of their lives. Only one king, however, never sinned at all. That King is the Lord Jesus Christ. While He was on earth, He always did the will of the Father. One day He will reign as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
- The main lesson we can learn from this lesson is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. Let us be glad when Mom or Dad say, “It’s time to go to church,” for that is where you can learn about our great God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Serve Him every minute of every day.

Activities:

- Play dough: Build a wall and tear it down. Use pine tree cookie cutters to remind of the cedar tree.
- Snack: “Spikes.” Instructions for this snack made of fried onions, mushrooms, cream cheese, and crushed potato chips may be found at [Recipe: Spikes step by step with pictures | Handy.Recipes](#). Note, however, that no ingredient measurements appear.
- Play and sing the following to the tune “London Bridge”:
Verses 1–3: (Two students hold another student between them by clasping hands as in “London Bridge.”)
Sing stanza 1: “Jehoash captured Judah’s king, Judah’s king, Judah’s king. Jehoash captured Judah’s king, Amaziah.”
(The 3 students move to another part of the room.)
Sing stanza 2: “Jehoash brought to Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. Jehoash brought to Jerusalem—Amaziah.”
(The two students who have captured “Amaziah” gently shake “him” by moving him side to side.)
Sing stanza 3: “Jerusalem’s walls are falling down, falling down, falling down. Jerusalem’s walls are falling down. Shame on You, Amaziah.”
(For verse 4, students cross arms across their chests.)
Sing stanza 4: “Serve the Lord with all your heart, all your heart, all your heart. Serve the Lord with all your heart. God will bless you.”
- Review questions: (Game: Divide the students into two teams, the “Thistles” and the “Cedars.” Print 4 copies each of the tree and thistle found below. If using a pocket chart, print on card stock. If using a flannel board, print on paper and back with flocked scraps or paper towel. A student who answers a question correctly places his or her team’s picture in the chart or on the board.)
 1. Although Amaziah started out doing good, what did he do after beating Edom in war? [Brought their gods home, set them up as his gods, and worshiped them.]
 2. What did Amaziah mean when he challenged Jehoash of Israel, saying, “Come, let us look one another in the face”? [“Let’s meet in battle.”]
 3. King Jehoash answered, saying Israel was like what plant? [A cedar tree.]
 4. To what did King Jehoash compare Judah? [A thistle.]
 5. In Jehoash’s story what happened to the thistle when it asked that the cedar tree’s daughter marry his son? [A wild beast stepped on the thistle.]
 6. King Jehoash was predicting the end of the battle with Amaziah. What would that end be? [Israel would soundly defeat Judah.]
 7. What did King Jehoash do to Jerusalem? [Tore down part of the wall; took treasures from the

Temple and king's house; took captives.]

Memory Verse Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV)

(A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.)

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122:1).

Handwork:

- Print the visual (found at the end of this lesson) for the memory verse Psalm 122:1. Students may color the picture. You may use it for an attendance chart as well.

high places

talents of silver

spoils

city walls

JUDEAN TOWNS OF MICAH 1		
Verse	Name	Meaning
1:10	Gath	= "tell"
1:10	Beth-le-aphrah	= "house of dust"
1:11	Shaphir	= "beautiful"
1:11	Zaanan*	= "come out"
1:11	Beth-ezel*	= "house of taking away"
1:12	Maroth*	= "bitter"
1:13	Lachish	= "to the steeds"
1:14	Moreseth-gath	= "one who is betrothed"
1:14	Achzib	= "deception"
1:15	Mareshah	= "conqueror"
1:15	Adullam	= symbolic of hostility, i.e. David's exile in 2 Sam 23:13
	* location unknown	



MICAH'S ISRAEL & JUDAH

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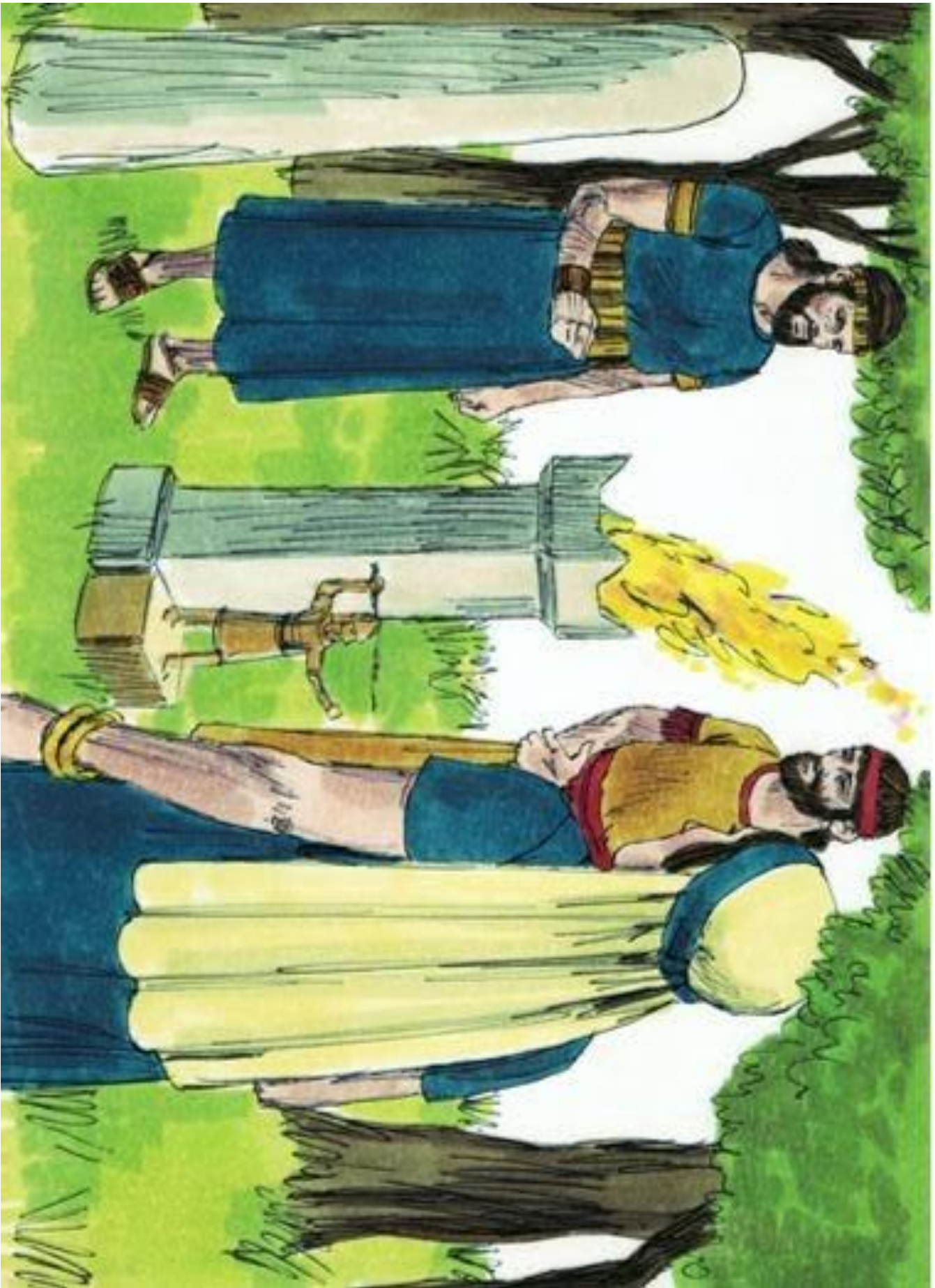
King Amaziah of Judah

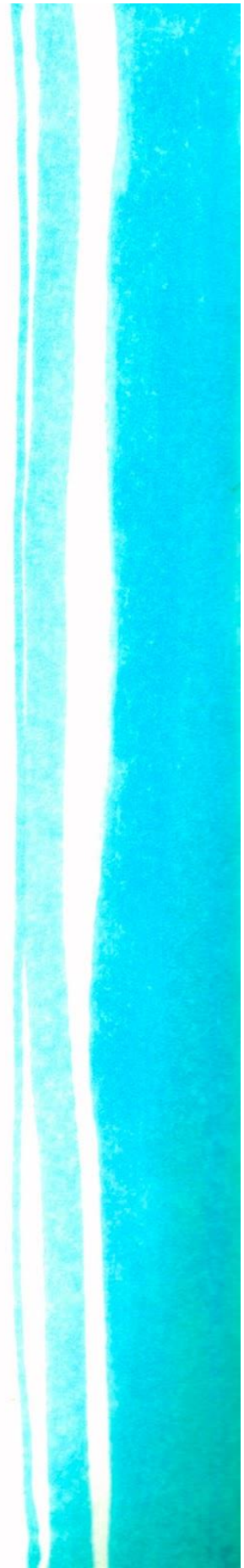
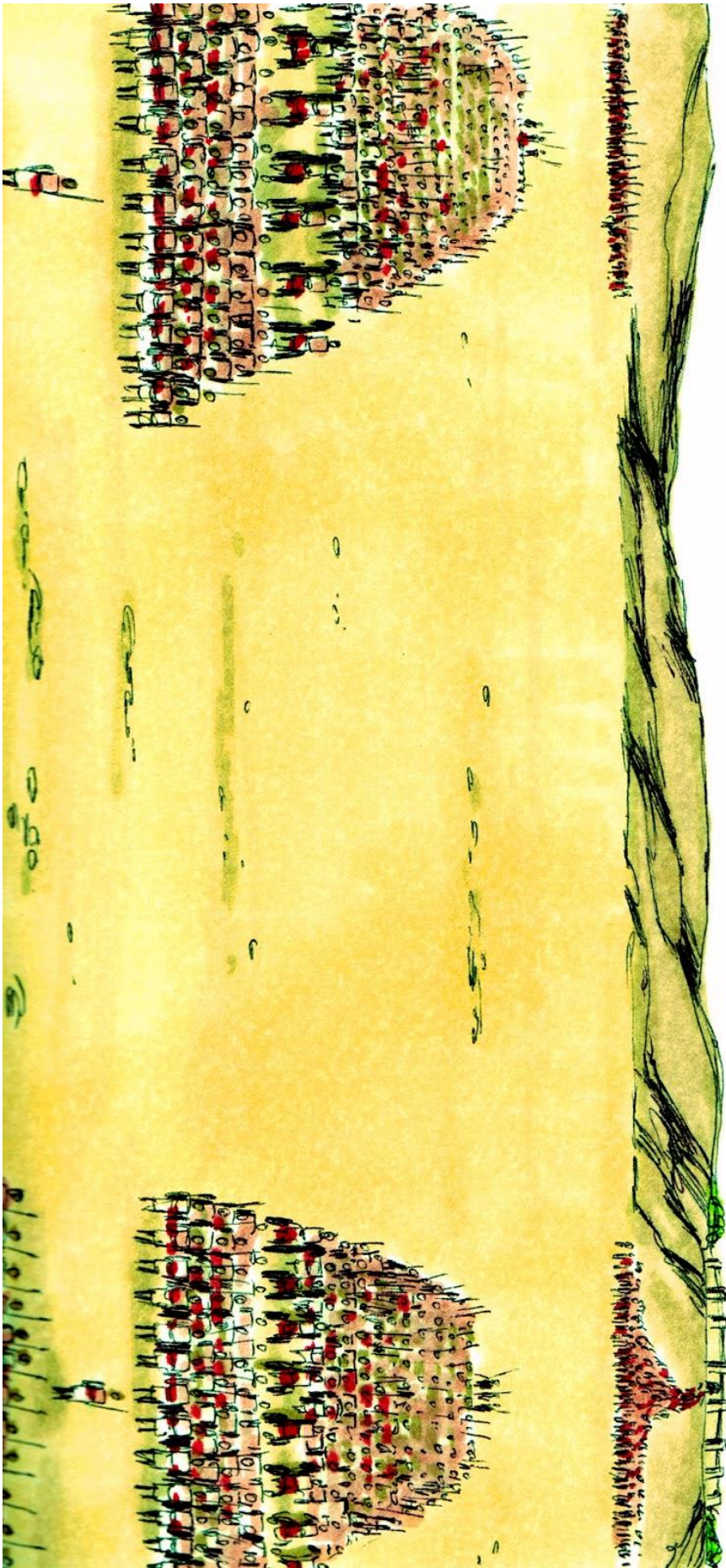
- He was 25 when he became the king
- King Jehoash sent a story back as a reply to fight
- He ignored the warning and lost the battle
- King for 29 years in Jerusalem

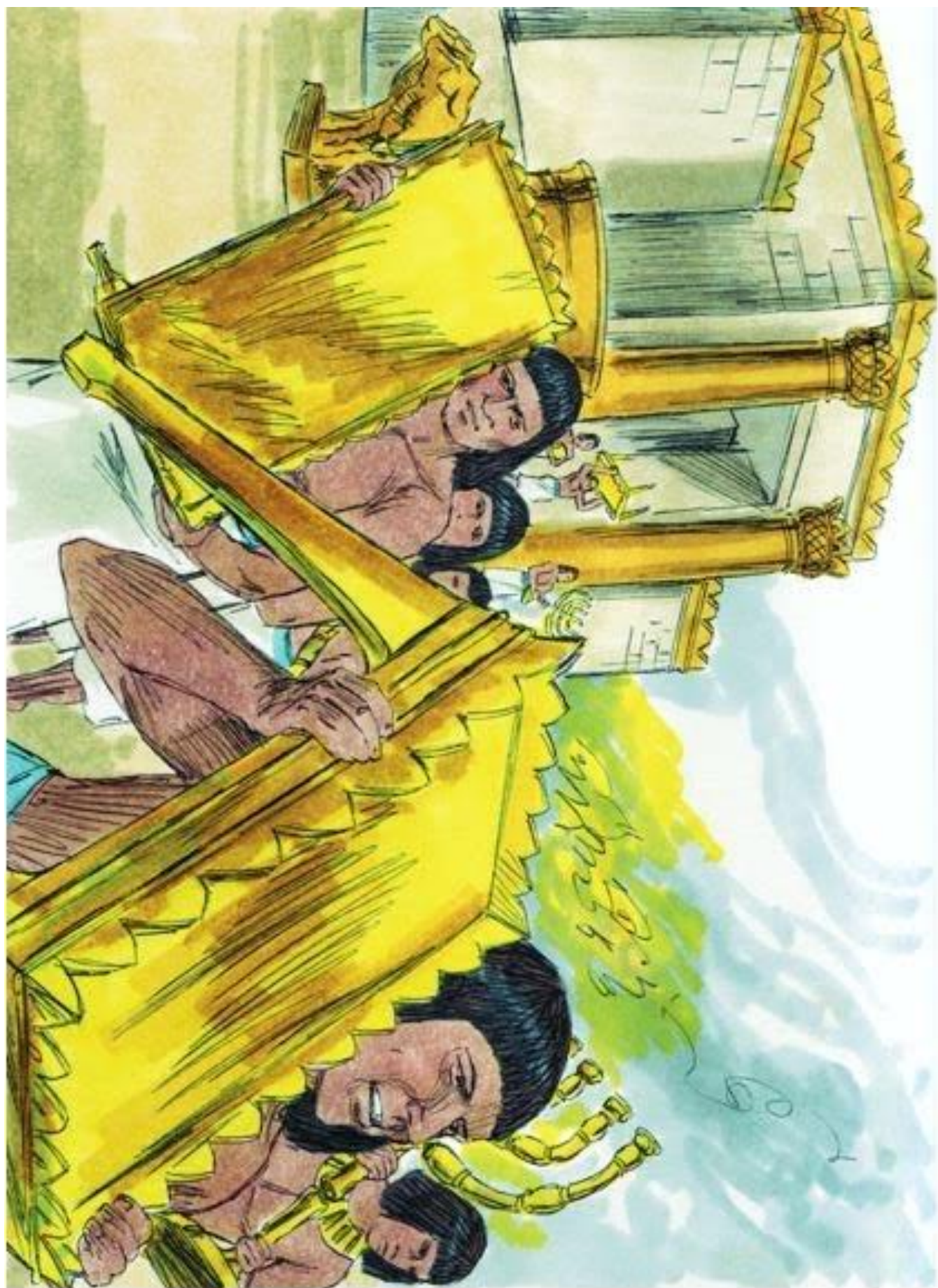


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Israel's Army

100,000 men



Judah's Army

300,000 men







[Wildflower Wednesday: Bull Thistle – Seashore to Forest Floor](#) (Note the size of the thistle, for a bee is on it.)

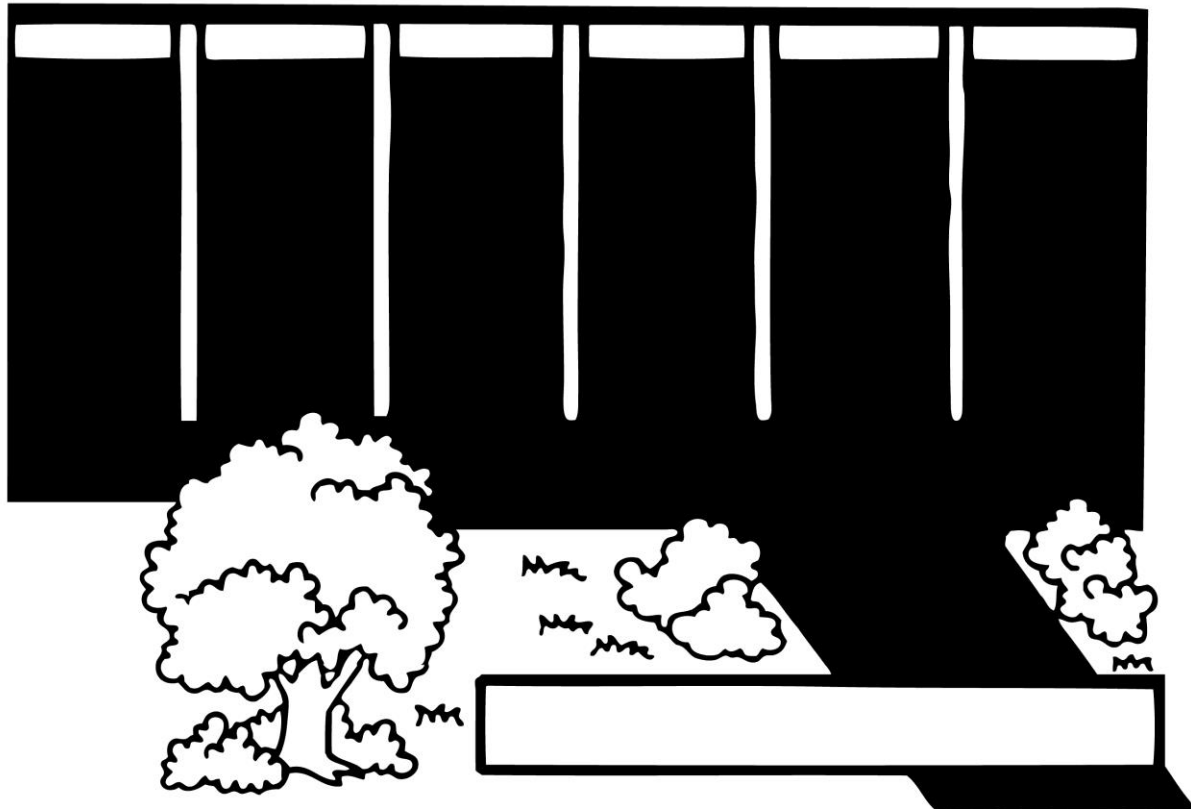


[Jerusalem Hills daily photo: November 2012](#) (Although this photo doesn't show 2 blocks' of damage, it is Jerusalem's wall.)

Sunday School Attendance

“I rejoiced
With those
Who said to
Me, ‘Let us go
To the house
Of the Lord.’”

Psalm 122:1



<https://craftingthewordofgod.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/sunday-school-chart.jpg>

Students may color the picture and use as an attendance chart by placing stickers on the black sections.