

July 5 Answers

- 1) The death of Elisha and the reign of Joash's son Amaziah. Elisha, the man of faith who had raised a boy from the dead, "had fallen sick with the **illness** of which he was to **die**" (2 Kgs 13:14). This teaches us that **healing** is not always God's will, even in the case of a truly righteous man, and that a name-it-and-claim-it attitude when it comes to healing can actually be **contrary** to God's plan. Joash's son Amaziah followed in his father's footsteps: "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" (2 Kgs 14:3). Amaziah was definitely a mixed bag. He avenged his father's death according to the **law**, and he obeyed God when he was told to get rid of the Israelite mercenaries he had hired. Yet he also brutally conquered the Edomites, foolishly **worshipped** their gods, proudly **rejected** God's reproof of his idolatry, and rashly challenged Jehoash to a war. How could he obey God one minute and disobey Him the next? Such are the actions of a man whose heart is not **perfect** toward God. Amaziah **hardened** his heart against God's rebuke, and he threatened the prophet who warned him of his folly. Mark the man who will not **listen**, for as the prophet said, "I know that God has determined to **destroy** you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel" (2 Chr 25:16b). Sure enough, Amaziah was killed by his own officials at the age of 54. He had followed his father's example in life, and it led him to the same bloody **death** (2 Chr 25:27–28).