

“UZZIAH”

Text: II Chronicles 26:1-23
Subject: How To Keep From Drifting From God

Introduction

- #1. Uzziah was chosen by the people to reign after the death of his father (Amaziah).
- #2. When Solomon died, Israel split into two Kingdoms, (the Northern Kingdom called Israel and the Southern Kingdom called Judah).
- #3. Uzziah took the throne as Judah’s tenth king in 791 B. C.
- #4. He had the second longest reign of a king, (52 years) second only to Manasseh’s 55 year reign.
- #5. He ruled during the ‘Golden age’ of Judah and Israel, (a time of great peace and prosperity).
- #6. He was so effective in his reforms that Isaiah felt it a calamity when Uzziah died. (Isaiah 6)
- #7. He illustrates what his great-grandfather Solomon meant when he said:

“Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18)

Question: Why do I love to study Uzziah?

Answer: Because of the life principle that God teaches us in II Chronicles 26:5.

“And Uzziah sought God in the days of Zechariah who had understanding in the visions of God; and **as long as** he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper”.

Question: What is the life principle here?

Answer: When we lean on the Lord in the secret place, the Lord takes care of the public place!

(In Other Words)

◆ If we prostrate ourselves before the Lord, we’ll never be prostrated before the enemy!!!

I. Uzziah’s Deeds

(Notice his many accomplishments with God’s Help)

- #1. He restored the key coastal city of Eloth. (v. 2)
- #2. He lived obedient and pleased the Lord. (v. 4)
- #3. He sought the Lord as a teenager and became a great young man of prayer. (v. 5)
- #4. He defeated the Philistines and rebuilt the cities. (v. 6)
- #5. He destroyed Israel’s long time enemy. (v. 7)
- #6. He received gifts from the Ammonites. (v. 8)
- #7. He continually became stronger & stronger. (v. 8)
- #8. He led the great construction projects in the capital city. (v. 9)
- #9. He built fortresses to protect the livestock. (v. 10)
- #10. He became an extensive cattle breeder. (v. 10)
- #11. He maintained farmers & vine-dressers upon the mountains & in the fields. (v. 10)
- #12. He organized and armed the great military forces. (vs. 11-15)

(So Much So)

“His name spread far abroad, for he was marvelously helped till he was strong”. (v. 15)

Question: Why was Uzziah strong and helped by God?

Answer: Because Uzziah lived in the spirit of prayer:

- ◆ He lived in conversation with God.
- ◆ He spread his helplessness before the Lord.
- ◆ He connected his weakness with God’s strength.
- ◆ He received the resources of the Almighty.

- ◆ He used his most effective weapon of prayer.
- ◆ He kept his mind settled upon God.
- ◆ He stayed in tune with heavenly instructions.
- ◆ He was continually hungry at God's spiritual storehouse.
- ◆ He maintained sensitivity to the voice of the Spirit.
- ◆ He refused to gamble that he could make it without God.

II. Uzziah's Danger

Question: How can someone like Uzziah drift away from God?

Question: How could Uzziah move out from under God's protection?

Question: How does Uzziah forfeit all of his privileges?

Question: What can happen to you and me if we're not careful?

(4 Dangers To Avoid And Why:)

#1. Uzziah Refused Communication With God

Question: Why was Uzziah so successful?

Answer: Because he did what all of us can do.

"And he sought God in the days of Zechariah...and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper". (v. 5)

- ◆ Uzziah was perusing his friendship with God.
- ◆ Uzziah was longing to just be close with God.

(But Then It Happened)

- ◆ Uzziah was ensnared by the "Too busy" life.
- ◆ Uzziah neglected his devotion in fellowship with God.
- ◆ Uzziah let his work squeeze God out of his heart.

Question: Why is prayerlessness a danger to avoid?

Answer: Because, prayerlessness allows what's outside of you to become greater than what's inside of you.

#2. Uzziah Refused Contentment Of Spirit

Question: What happens to Uzziah when he ceases in his communion with God?

Answer: He becomes discontent, disturbed and distracted.

- ◆ So much so that he drifted where he did not belong.

(V. 16), "And Uzziah went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense".

Question: Why was this such a deadly sin for Uzziah?

Answer: (V. 18), Because burning incense on the altar was only for the priests to do, (never a king).

Question: Why does Uzziah drift where he doesn't belong?

Answer: Because he has lost his contentment, (and flesh comes into the picture).

- ◆ He isn't content just to be king.
- ◆ He feels he deserves a few more perks.
- ◆ He wants attention that doesn't belong to him.
- ◆ He's lost his spirit to serve the team.
- ◆ He's forgotten what it means to be a servant.

Question: What happens when we step outside of a spirit of prayer?

Answer: We begin to yield to the little temptations (towards disobedience).

- ◆ Uzziah believes he can disobey God without consequences.

- ◆ Uzziah believes he can rest on past successes.
- ◆ Uzziah believes that God will ignore his stubbornness

#3. Uzziah Refused Correction Of The Flesh

Question: What happens to Uzziah when he goes into the temple to burn incense?

“And Azariah the priest went in after him with 80 other priests” (v. 17)

“And they withstood Uzziah the king and said, “What are you doing Uzziah?” (v. 18)

(Caution – Red Light – Warning!)

- ◆ “What are you doing Uzziah?”
- ◆ “You’re heading in the wrong direction”.
- ◆ “Why are you messing with danger?”
- ◆ “Stop now before it’s too late”.

Question: How did Uzziah respond to correction?

Question: How did the king respond to reproof?

Question: How did he react to those who loved him enough to warn him?

“Then Uzziah Was Enraged” (Verse 19)

Fact: Uzziah became angry!

Fact: Uzziah would not be corrected & instructed.

Fact: Uzziah refused to step back and listen.

Fact: Uzziah wouldn’t allow himself to be detoured from coming danger.

Fact: Uzziah reacted in a carnal way when 81 priests looked him square in the eye and said, “Stop, you’re going in the wrong direction”.

Question: Why is it foolishness to disregard correction, reproof and instruction?

Question: What is the root of not wanting to change directions when warned?

Question: What leads someone to not be accountable and resent authority?

Question: Why is anger such a deadly weapon the enemy can use against us?

“For the anger of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1:20)

#4. Uzziah Refused Contrition Of Heart

Question: What happens to Uzziah when he forgets who made him strong?

“His heart was “lifted up” to his destruction”. (v. 16)

Fact: Pride thought it was too good for the Law.

Fact: Pride thought it could bypass the stop signs.

Fact: Pride exalted itself and displayed itself.

Fact: Pride thought itself more highly than it ought to think.

Question: How could this man start so well and yet end so poorly?

Question: How could Uzziah begin in prayer and yet end up in such transgression?

#1. His heart became cold in prayer.

#2. His heart became full of pride.

#3. His heart became angry and resentful of correction & reproof.

Question: How can we be protected from allowing our hearts to be “lifted up” in pride?

Question: What will enable us to stay humble and take the low road?

Question: What does Proverbs 22:4 really mean;

“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor and life”?

III. Uzziah’s Disaster

Question: What happens to those who refuse prayer, contentment, correction and humility?

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Question: What happened to King Uzziah?

- #1. He was diseased (v. 19)
 - ◆ God smote him with leprosy.
 - ◆ Uzziah became a reproach to even look upon.
- #2. He was dismissed (v. 20)
 - ◆ Uzziah was thrust out of the temple.
 - ◆ He lived as a hermit in isolation.
- #3. He was demoted (v. 21)
 - ◆ Uzziah was placed in a “several house” (separated)
 - ◆ He was cut off from worshiping in the temple ever again.
- #4. He was disgraced (v. 23)
 - ◆ Uzziah wasn’t even allowed burial with the other kings.
 - ◆ He was buried “near them in a field”.

Life Application For You And Me

(What God Teaches Us Through Uzziah’s Life)

- #1. Communication with God is our greatest privilege on earth.
 - ◆ A spirit of prayer is a mind set upon God.
 - ◆ This dialogue will result in peace throughout your day.

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things; but one thing is needful, (which is communion with God like Mary has discovered)”. Luke 10:41-42
- #2. Contentment with God will protect us from envy and jealousy.
 - ◆ Envy wants what someone else possesses.
 - ◆ Jealousy resents the fact that it cannot have it.

“Godliness with contentment is great gain” (I Timothy 6:6)
- #3. Correction received will spare us from much pain.
 - ◆ Teachability allows us to be changed by God.
 - ◆ Change is what allows us to grow and mature.

“Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way, and he, and he that hateth reproof shall die” (Proverbs 15:10)
- #4. Contrition of heart is the fertile soil of all good fruit.
 - ◆ Humility will allow God’s grace to flow to you.
 - ◆ Brokenness will bless you as you see how much you need the Lord.

“To this person will I look, even to those who are poor and of a contrite heart, and trembles at My Word” (Isaiah 66:2)

Activity without prayer will dull our sensitivity and diminish our productivity!

AMEN!
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