

The Tragic Ending Of A Good King's Reign

II Chron. 26:1-5

Introduction

- A number of O.T. kings (from Judah) fit the title:
 - Asa. Great and godly man for so many years of his 41 year reign – yet we see end of his life. (II Chron. 16:9-11)
 - Joash. (II Chron. 24:20-22)
 - Amaziah. (II Chron. 25:2,26-28)
 - Uzziah. (II Chron. 26)

Life of Uzziah

- Son of Amaziah and Jecholiah.
- Began to reign (792-740) at 16 years old. (II Chron. 26:1)
- “Did that which was right in the sight of the Lord” (II Chron. 26:4)
- “Sought God in the days of Zechariah” (II Chron. 26:5)
- Very successful in his reign.

Uzziah's Very Successful Reign

- Built Elath and restored it to Judah. (II Chron. 26:2)
- Success in battle. (II Chron. 26:6-8)
 - His name spread abroad even to Egypt. (v-8)
- Fortified the city with towers. (II Chron. 26:9)
- He increased the agriculture of the land. (II Chron. 26:10)
- Had a large, powerful and well-equipped army. (II Chron. 26:12-15)
 - And his name spread far abroad. (v-15)
- He reigned 52 years. Only one king had a longer reign. (26:3)
- Things take a turn in his death. (II Chron. 26:23)
 - He dies a leper and is buried in a field belonging to the kings.
- 4 Lessons from the life and leprosy of Uzziah.

Lesson 1 → God's View of Sin

- The Lord had smitten him. (II Chron. 26:20)
- Contradicts the view many have of God and sin.
 - Does not care, will not punish. (Ps. 50:21; Mal. 2:17)
 - Does not hate. (Lev. 18:22; Prov. 6:16-19)
 - God's mercy, love and kindness mitigates against punishment. (Rom. 11:22; 2:4)
- Such examples help us to see sin as God does.
 - Rom. 3:23; 6:23;
 - Hab. 1:13; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24

Lesson 2 → God Cares How We Worship

- Uzziah is reprovved by the priests for usurping a role that he did not have. (II Chron. 26:17-18f; Num. 18:7)
- The thinking of many today:
 - God will accept whatever is done sincerely. (Acts 17:23)
 - Worship may be according to man's preferences and terms. (Col. 2:23)
- God's will on worship. (Jn. 4:24; Gen. 4:4-5; Heb. 11:4; Lev. 10:1-3)

Lesson 3 → God Forgives The Penitent

- David...

- And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. (II Sam. 12:7)
- And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. (II Sam. 12:13)
- And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. (II Sam. 12:13)

- Uzziah...

- 17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD...(II Chron. 26:17-18)
- Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, (II Chron. 26:19)

Lesson 4 → God Commands Gratitude

- We are to be thankful for the good gifts (Js. 1:17) that God has given to us. (I Thess. 5:18; Col. 3:15,17)
- Jesus was thankful. (Matt. 11:25, etc.)
- Paul's writings abound with expressions of thanks. (II Thess. 1:3,13, etc.)
- All good gifts come from God. (Js. 1:17)
- Uzziah failed to recognize and be grateful to God, but was rather lifted up with pride. (II Chron. 26:16; Prov. 16:18)
- The sin of ingratitude → sin of pride → many other sins. (Rom. 1:18-22)
- Sin is a manifestation of ingratitude for God's good blessing to us – His Son, His word, Forgiveness.
- Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. (II Cor. 9:15)