

Title: Lessons from Uzziah
Text: 2 Chronicles 26: 1-23
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Tonight our subject is: **Lessons from Uzziah.**

2 Chronicles 26: 1: Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. 2: He built Eloth, [important seaport] and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. 3: Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. 4: And he did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD*, according to all that his father Amaziah did. 5: And he 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.

Divisions: There were two periods in Uzziah's life. Those two periods will make our divisions. 1) The first half of his life, Uzziah sought God and God made him to prosper 2) The latter half of his life, Uzziah transgressed against God and his prosperity ended.

Proposition: Our chief lesson from Uzziah is the necessity of the believer persevering in faith—continuing from beginning to end believing Christ Jesus.

Salvation is not a one-time public profession of Christ. Neither shall any be saved who begin then turn away from Christ and his gospel. All who do manifest they never were truly regenerated and given faith by God. When a sinner is truly made a partaker of Christ we continue steadfastly believing Christ unto the end of this life.

Hebrews 3:14: We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

Hebrews 10: 39: But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

**I. THE FIRST HALF OF UZZIAH'S LIFE IS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE WHO BELIEVES THE LORD—
v5: He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God:**

“**He sought God**” means Uzziah worshipped God in the way God commanded that God would be approached.

For example: While seeking God, Uzziah offered incense offerings through the priests as God commanded. Later in the text, this is where Uzziah transgressed later in his life. The incense-offering symbolized worship and prayer toward God through Christ—Ps 141: 2: Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense. The priests who presented the incense-offering for Israel typified Christ the Intercessor of God's spiritual Israel.

Get the picture: In the outside court of the temple, the people prayed to God. As they prayed, it was only through the priests that their prayers ascended to God. By the incense, which the priests burned, the sinner's prayer was made acceptable to God in type. Then the priest returned from God with the blessing from God to the one who prayed.

Get the reality: the believer now has access to God as long as we come through faith in Christ the new and living Way. Christ our Intercessor, our Mediator presents: his people, our worship, our prayers, our service to God. Like the sweet incense, the person and merits of Christ make: us, our worship, prayers, and service acceptable to God. Then Christ comes from God to us with a blessing from God the Father such as, "Your sins are forgiven; go in peace," (Ps 141:2; Re 5:8; 8:4.)

God only accepts the believer—ourselves, our worship, our prayer, our feeble service—when we approach God through faith in Christ. It is in Christ’s person, his merits, his intercession only that God accepts his people. For a while, Uzziah approached God in an Intercessor.

Uzziah was faithful to seek God **v5: “in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God:”** This is not the prophet Zechariah. But this was a man given understanding by God so he could teach the truth of God’s prophets and law. So Zechariah was Uzziah’s preacher, teaching Uzziah the meaning of the types and shadows of the law and the prophets—v5: And Uzziah **sought God in the days of Zechariah**

This shows us the necessity of continually hearing the true gospel. We need the gospel to be continually reminded that we must come to God through faith in Christ or we shall not be accepted of God. As long as Uzziah continually attended the preaching of Zechariah, being taught the Way, the Truth and the Life, he sought God aright.

Illustration: Reminders of upcoming events else we forget. Luther “we need to hear the gospel everyday because we forget it everyday.”

Then we are told, v5: **“and as long as [Uzziah] sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.”** As long as Uzziah persevered in faith, worshipping God as he was taught through God’s messenger to come God through a Mediator, an Intercessor, he did so **and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.** God made King Uzziah prosper in a material way in the earth. Christ is certainly able to make his people prosper temporally. But more importantly Christ makes us prosper spiritually. So in the temporal prosperity of king Uzziah, let’s consider the spiritual prosperity God gives every believer.

First, God made King Uzziah to be a good, benevolent king. (16 years old during a great depression in Jerusalem—yet God made him prosper greatly.) Spiritually, believer’s are made kings unto God in Christ—not by the people, as was Uzziah, but by Christ’s blood.

Revelation 1: 5:…Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6: And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (See also Rev 5: 9-10)

As long Uzziah sought God, God gave him victory over his enemies—**v6: And he ...warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall [of enemy cities]...and built cities [among the enemies] 7: And God helped him [The Word of the LORD helped him—Christ the pre-incarnate Word] against [three enemies:] the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims.** It is by Christ’s hand the believer is given the victory over all our enemies.

These three enemies had previously conquered Judah like as every sinner was conquered in our first representative by three enemies.

- By Satan—(Ephesians 2: 2)
- By sin—(Rom 6:20)
- By death—(Hebrews 2:15)

The last representative, the representative of God’s elect—**Christ the Word helped us**—the Word was made flesh, by his obedience, he conquered Satan, sin, & death fulfilling the law on our behalf.

Romans 5: 19: For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20: Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 55: O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56: The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57: But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:37:...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

While Uzziah sought God, God gave him ability to build cities amongst his enemies—**v6: built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines**. Christ uses his faithful servants, and through his gospel he establishes heavenly cities—gospel churches—in the midst of this world of enemies.

2 Corinthians 2:14: Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15: For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?...3: 5: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

God even uses our enemies to provide gifts for us and God makes his name known as he spreads his kingdom throughout this whole earth—**v8: And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he [the LORD, the Word] strengthened [Uzziah] exceedingly**.

As long as he sought God, God gave Uzziah defenses to protect him—**v9: he built towers in Jerusalem...v10: towers in the desert**. But God gives the believer Christ himself to defend us. He is our high tower and our city of refuge.

Psalm 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

Proverbs 18:10: The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

As long as Uzziah sought God, God gave him wells in the desert. **v10: and digged many wells**: But God has given Christ to be our Well of salvation—

Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water....14:...whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

As long as he worshipped God in Christ Uzziah was given **v10: much cattle**, But believers are God's cattle—Christ's sheep under care of Christ our Shepherd

Psalm 23: 1: «A Psalm of David.» The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

As long as Uzziah sought God, God gave Uzziah **v10: [many] vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry**—but believers have Christ our Vine, we are his branches and God our Father is the Husbandman—

John 15: 1: I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2: Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3: Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4: Abide in me, and I in you. As the

branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5: I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

As long as he sought God, Uzziah was blessed of the LORD with a great army—**v12:...the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred.** [commanding officers] **13 And under their hand was an army,** [307, 500 men], **that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. 14: And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.** But believer we are Christ's army, Christ is our Captain, all your brethren are God's mighty army who make war with mighty power.

The victory of redemption is won already by Christ our Mighty Power.

Isaiah 40:2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that **her warfare is accomplished**, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

And to fight the warfare between flesh and spirit just as king Uzziah equipped his army, Christ has equipped us.

Ephesians 6: 13: Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, [Christ himself] that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14: Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17: And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Brethren, for Christ's sake, God has marvelously blessed us spiritually, making us strong in him. **V15: And [Uzziah's] name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, until he was strong.** We want only Christ's name to spread far and abroad. He alone has made us strong and our strength is him alone.

Psalm 115:1: Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

But the proof that we have been made partakers of Christ is if we continue believing Christ and looking to him alone—

Matthew 24:13: But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Hebrews 10:35: Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

II. NOW WE COME TO THE SECOND PART OF UZZIAH'S LIFE—Here is an example of those who prove they never were in Christ by God's grace. They prove it by not persevering in faith in Christ—**V16: But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.**

First, notice the cause he turned away from God—**v16: But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction:...**When he was strong, Uzziah began looking at the blessings God had given rather than at God who gave them. Looking to the strength God gave made him forget the LORD who was his only strength.

Brethren, whatever temporal thing God may give us in this life, whatever spiritual blessings we have, use all to look out of ourselves, away from this world, to worship Christ alone! Use every blessing to lead you to Christ and never cease looking to Christ. Temporal blessings and spiritual blessings are good but the God who gives them is greater than all!

Notice this was in his heart. We will see his action next, but this was in his heart. A sinner must be given a new heart which God alone can give.

Matthew 5: 19: For out of the heart proceed evil [of every kind]...20: These are the things which defile a man:...

Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Because of blessings given him from another, pride filled his heart—Proverbs 6: 16: These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17: A proud look,...

King David gave God the glory,

1 Chronicles 29: 12: Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13: Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14: But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things *come* of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Brethren, what do you and I have to be proud of?

1 Corinthians 4: 7: For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive [from God]? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it [from God]?

- By grace, God the Father chose whom he would in Christ.
- By grace, Christ put away the sin of his people, making us the righteousness of God in Christ.
- By grace, the Holy Spirit created life in us and gave us faith to believe in Christ.
- By grace, any good work we do was foreordained by God that we should walk in it for Christ's glory.
- By grace, we are kept believing in Christ, through the gospel of Christ, made effectual in our hearts by Christ being formed in you.

God allowed Uzziah to do this to teach us that unless God truly begin a work of grace in our hearts and carry it on until the end we will not persevere in faith in Christ. Therefore, do not look away from Christ. And "He that glories let him glory in the LORD." (1 Cor 1: 31)

Here was Uzziah's transgression: he attempted to worship God without Christ—**v16: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.** We saw that the priest burning incense for the people typified Christ our Intercessor presenting the believer to the Father. Uzziah thought a man as strong as himself needed no Mediator between him and God. He was wrong! No sinner can worship God without Christ; or pray without Christ; or meet God on judgment day and be accepted of God without Christ.

Notice, Uzziah did not cease being religious. Many have a form of religion, even a form of true doctrine. But they do not come to God through faith in Christ in a heart made new by God. Many cease assembling with God's saints who still claim to believe God, even Christ—they are quick to tell you they do; their doctrine may even have a ring of truth to it. But they attempt to worship God by their wisdom, by their will, by their works. Doing so, they refuse to come to God the one way God will be approached, in Jesus Christ the Mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Acts 4: 12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Will God accept any sinner who comes to God in any way outside of Christ? No! In fact, Christ himself will be the one to cast such a man out of his presence. Azariah the priest and these other priests are a type of Christ, notice they are who cast out Uzziah—v17: **And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: 18: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.**

Christ shall himself judge and thrust out all who attempt to come to God outside of Christ. Christ said he would do so.

Matthew 7: 21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [that is believe and rest in Christ alone] 22: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Why? Because v18: **“it appertains not unto you”**, it pertains to Christ the Mediator **“But I am sincere”**—v18: **thou hast trespassed;--All so-called worship outside of Christ is sin—it is idolatry! v18: neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God--**"Neither is it worship. It is your disgrace and your destruction." **“That makes me angry!”**—v19: **Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests,** [the priest represent God, Christ. Your anger is your enmity against God, while as yet you pretend to worship God] **the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.** [Your anger is sin rising up in your forehead because you're are offended that God counts your so-called wisdom nothing but sin.]

Every sinner who attempts to come to God **now** without Christ or in the day of judgment, this will be the word of Christ the Judge himself to you, v18:...**“go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed.”** And in that day you will agree with God because it will be God himself who has smitten you—v20:...**yea, himself hastened also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.**

So every sinner who comes to God outside of Christ shall be cut off from the presence of God—v21: **And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD:...23: So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; [not with the kings but in the field of lepers] for they said, He is a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.**

Go home thinking on this: great contrast between the spiritual prosperity God gives when we seek God in Christ the Mediator and the wrath God pours out when one tries to bypass Christ the Intercessor! Can you say, “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” Then “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim 1: 12) Christ shall “present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; (col 1: 22-23) 1 Corinthians 16:13: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Amen!