

Doctrine of Uzziah



The King Uzziah Stricken with Leprosy
Rembrandt, 1635

1. Uzziah (strength of Jehovah), also known as Azariah, was king of Judah (BC 809-8 to 757-6).
2. During his reign a great earthquake occurred.
 - *Amos 1:1 The words of Amos, who was among the herdman of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.*
 - *Zechariah 14:5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*
3. He is one of the kings mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew.
 - *Matthew 1:8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias [Uzziah]; 9 And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;*
4. After the murder of his father Amaziah, Uzziah was chosen by the people, at the age of sixteen, to occupy the vacant throne.

- *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.*
5. For the greater part of his long reign of fifty-two years Uzziah lived in the fear of God, and showed himself a wise, active and pious ruler.
 - *2 Chronicles 26:3 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.*
 6. Uzziah never deserted the worship of the true God, and was much influenced by Zechariah, a prophet who is mentioned only in connection with him.
 - *2 Chronicles 26:5 And he [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.*
 7. During the reign of Uzziah, the southern kingdom was raised to a condition of prosperity, prestige, and power, which it had not known since the death of Solomon.
 - Prosperity. Tribute was given to Uzziah from the Ammonites. *2 Chronicles 26:8 And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah:*
 - Prestige. *2 Chronicles 26:8 ... and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt;*
 - Power. *2 Chronicles 26:8 ... for he strengthened himself exceedingly.*
 8. With his prosperity, prestige, and power, Uzziah built up the grandeur and security of Jerusalem.
 - Towers were constructed. *2 Chronicles 26:9 Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.*
 - A water supply was established. *2 Chronicles 26:10 Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry.*
 9. To protect what God had entrusted to him, Uzziah established a large standing army.
 - *2 Chronicles 26:11 Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains.*

10. The army of Uzziah was impressive:

- in leaders. *2 Chronicles 26:12 The whole number of the chief [commanders] of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred [2,600].*
- in soldiers. *2 Chronicles 26:13 And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand [300,000] and seven thousand and five hundred [7,500], that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.*
- in preparation. *2 Chronicles 26:14 And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons [a short, sleeveless coat of mail], and bows, and slings to cast stones.*
- in military support. *2 Chronicles 26:15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.*

11. Though he was “marvellously helped” by the Lord, Uzziah did not pass the prosperity test for his heart was lifted up with pride.

12. Enamored with his own success, Uzziah was determined to burn incense on the altar of God, despite being opposed by the high priest Azariah and eighty others.

- *2 Chronicles 26:16 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. 17 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.*

13. Uzziah knew better than to invade the holy office of the high priest, for others had been disciplined for the same sin.

- *Exodus 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. 8 And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.*
- *Numbers 16:40 To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the Lord; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the Lord said to him by the hand of Moses.*

- *Numbers 18:7 Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*
14. Because he was enraged at being told that he could not enter into the office of the high priest, Uzziah was enraged at the resistance.
15. As he pressed forward with his censer he was suddenly smitten with leprosy on his forehead.
- *2 Chronicles 26:19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, from beside the incense altar. 20 And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hastened also to go out, because the Lord had smitten him.*
16. Although this lawless attempt to burn incense was the only exception to an excellent administration, it was serious enough that Uzziah the king remained a leper unto the day of his death.
- *2 Chronicles 26:19 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: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.*
17. Uzziah was buried "with his fathers," but because he was a leper, probably not in the royal sepulchers.
- *2 Chronicles 26:21 So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; for they said, He is a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.*