

Story: Uzziah

Theme: Faithfulness in prosperity

Text: 2 Chronicles 26

Approximate Story Time: 4-5 minutes

Discussion Questions: 4

PBA Questions from Story: 13

Total PBA Questions: 23

Uzziah

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king and he reigned for 52 years. Uzziah sought God in the days Zechariah the prophet and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper. (By the way, this Zechariah is not the same prophet that wrote the Book of Zechariah, who lived later during the time the Persian Empire ruled over that part of the world.) So anyways, Uzziah sought the LORD and God made him prosper. Uzziah made war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of three Philistine cities, Gath (Goliath was from Gath, as you may remember), Jabneh, and Ashdod. God also helped Uzziah against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites. The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. Uzziah became strong and famous all the way to the entrance of Egypt. Uzziah was also prudent in building up the defenses of Judah. He built towers at some of the gates of Jerusalem and had towers built in the desert and had an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred men with two thousand six hundred chief officers. Uzziah encouraged the inventors in his kingdom, and they invented devices to shoot arrows and large stones and Uzziah placed these devices in the towers. Uzziah was very rich, he had so much livestock that he had to have lots of wells dug to water all the animals. Uzziah loved the soil, and hired farmers and vinedressers to care for his crops and vineyards. Uzziah was rich and prospered because he sought God.

As Uzziah became stronger and more famous, formal worship and trust in his own righteousness gradually took the place of honest seeking after the ways of God. It wasn't that Uzziah woke up one day and said "I don't love God and I'm not going to follow Him anymore. He just gradually, a little at a time, began to think he had everything under control and stopped thinking about his need of God. Had anyone asked him, he would have defended God and told you how much God meant to him and Judah. It was just that while Uzziah knew to go to church on Sabbath and knew the doctrines on the state of the dead and the Spirit of Prophecy and knew to tithe and give nice offerings and prayed and read his Bible, he didn't notice that self sufficiency had taken control of him. When the idea came to him to offer incense in the temple, he thought he was doing a good thing, he thought he would be honoring God. He had become so used to thinking he knew what was right in all circumstances, that he missed the presumption of what he wanted to do. God had plainly said that only the priests, the sons of Aaron, could minister to God in the temple by offering incense. But Uzziah thought that he could show his love for God by doing something that was against the Word that God had given to His people. Unfortunately for Uzziah, his pride was his downfall. He entered the sanctuary to burn incense on the altar of incense. The priest Azariah and eighty other priests followed him in and warned him that what he was doing was wrong and God would not honor him for doing wrong. Uzziah reacted to the priest's warnings the same way we too often react when we do something wrong and somebody (like our parents or a friend) points out our error. He got angry with the people who were trying to help him not make a mistake. Uzziah didn't listen to the correct words of the priests, he was too furious with them. Uzziah didn't hear the message from God, because he was mad and didn't listen. Uzziah allowed his emotions control over his reason, so he could no longer tell right from wrong. All he knew was that someone was trying to stop him from doing what he wanted.

Then in the middle of Uzziah's tantrum, the priests gasped in horror. Uzziah stopped his tantrum to figure out what was wrong and the priests looks of shock told him something very scary was happening to him. Suddenly Uzziah realized that leprosy was breaking out on his forehead. By the time the priests fully understood that Uzziah's presumption was being punished with leprosy and they started to throw him out of the temple, Uzziah also realized what had happened to him and rushed to leave the temple. Thoughts of offering

incense were gone.

Uzziah was a leper the rest of his life and had to live in an isolated house apart from everyone else. His son Jotham was over the king's house and judged the people while Uzziah lived out his life cut off from the house of the LORD.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was Uzziah's sin?
 - a. Presumption of doing something against the Word of God
 - b. Offering Incense in the temple though that was only for the priests, the sons of Aaron to do
 - c. pride
2. How did Uzziah get from following God to disobeying God by trying to offer incense in the temple?
 - a. Self sufficiency let him think he was honoring God even though he was going against what God said
 - b. Allowing himself to think he was so important that he forgot God was much more important
 - c. Maybe not studying God's word as often or not letting God's Spirit guide him as he studied
 - d. Allowing the praise of others to affect his opinion of himself instead of letting God point out his sins and weaknesses
3. Azariah warned Uzziah in front of the other priests to not offer incense. Was it appropriate for him to do get involved or should he have let God handle it? When and how should we correct others when we think they are doing wrong?
 - a. Righteous indignation, such as when Jesus drove those who bought and sold in the temple (Mt 21:12-13)
 - b. Should do as Jesus did, with love
 - c. If you enjoy the correcting, your heart isn't right so don't do it (Some people like "correcting" others because it makes them feel superior, they are really correcting others for themselves not God and thus should not do it, let God's spirit guide, not our sinful spirit)
 - d. Azariah warned Uzziah (public verses private, depends on sin)
 - e. How to respond if someone does something against you? Matthew 18 (one to one, two or three, the church)
4. God shows us in the story of Uzziah that He considers it important that we obey what He has taught us in the way we worship and serve Him. What can we do to keep ourselves from making the same mistake as Uzziah?
 - a. Study God's Word every day
 - b. Ask for God to guide us and teach us (Pray)
 - i. Let God's Spirit guide us as we study and go through our days
 - ii. Let God teach us and show us our sins and weaknesses
 - c. When things seem to be going well for us, ask God to remind us of our need for His rule in our lives.
 - d. Obey the things God has already taught us (Follow the light we have)

PBA Questions: (Do as many as there is time for, at least one or two.) (The first 13 can be answered from the above story, more or less.)

1. According to 2 Chronicles 26:1, how old was Uzziah when he became king?

ANS: 16

2. According to 2 Chronicles 26:21, who judged the people after Uzziah became a leper and

was cut off from the house of the LORD?

ANS: Jotham his son

3. According to 2 Chronicles 26:20, who saw the leprosy break out on the forehead of Uzziah?

ANS: Azariah the chief priest and all the priests

4. According to 2 Chronicles 26:5, Uzziah sought God in the days of what man who had understanding in the visions of God?

ANS: Zechariah

5. According to 2 Chronicles 26:18-19, what was Uzziah's reaction when Azariah and the other priests refused to let him offer incense in the temple?

ANS: he became furious

6. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:6, when Uzziah made war against the Philistines, he broke down the walls of what three cities?

ANS: broke down the wall of **Gath**, the wall of **Jabneh**, and the wall of **Ashdod**

7. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:7, against what three peoples did God help Uzziah?

ANS: God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites

8. According to 2 Chronicles 26:17, how many priests went into the temple with Azariah the priest to withstand Uzziah?

ANS: 80 priests, valiant men

9. According to 2 Chronicles 26:8, Uzziah became exceedingly strong and his fame spread how far?

ANS: to the entrance of Egypt

10. According to 2 Chronicles 26:16, when Uzziah was strong he transgressed against the LORD by entering the temple to do what? Be specific.

ANS: burn incense on the altar of incense

11. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:15, Uzziah built devices invented by skillful men to do what?

ANS: shoot arrows and large stones

12. According to 2 Chronicles 26:13, how many men were in Uzziah's army?

ANS: 307,500 (three hundred and seven thousand five hundred)

13. According to 2 Chronicles 26:12, what was the total number of chief officers of Uzziah's army?

ANS: 2,600 (two thousand six hundred)

14. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:10, Uzziah loved the soil and had farmers and vinedressers where?

ANS: the mountains and Carmel

15. 6 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:14, what did Uzziah have prepared for his entire

army?

ANS: shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones

16. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:11, who prepared the roll of the fighting men of Uzziah's army?

ANS: Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer

17. According to 2 Chronicles 26:23, where did they bury Uzziah?

ANS: in the field of burial which belonged to the kings (the Commentary says this probably means that Uzziah was buried in a burial plot belonging to the kings, but not in the royal tombs themselves)

18. According to 2 Chronicles 26:2, what city did Uzziah build and restore to Judah?

ANS: Elath

19. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:3, how old was Uzziah when he became king and how long did he reign?

ANS: 16 years old and reigned 52 years

20. According to 2 Chronicles 26:22, who wrote the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last?

ANS: the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz

21. True or False. According to 2 Chronicles 26:4, Uzziah did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Joash had done.

ANS: False, he did right according to all that his father Amaziah had done

22. According to 2 Chronicles 26:18, who was consecrated to burn incense to the LORD?

ANS: the priests, the sons of Aaron

23. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 26:9, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at what three places?

ANS: at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall