

Sermon Discussion - 7 August 2022

Read 2 Chronicles 26:3-21; James 4:6

Dig Deeper

The Chronicler gave us much more information about **Uzziah** than we have in Kings (*2 Kings 15:1-7*). Uzziah (“Yahweh is strong”) was evidently the king’s throne name and Azariah (“Yahweh helps”) his personal name.

Machines or “inventions” are devices from which men hurled projectiles in defence of the city. Murals from the siege of Lachish (701 B.C.) show defenders on the city walls shooting arrows and hurling stones from behind wooden frames on which shields have been hung.

Unfaithful (v. 16) carries the sense of opposing God’s holiness (*see Lev. 6:1-7*) or failing to give Him His due in worship. Uzziah trespassed on the temple which was for the priests and Levites only. He sought to offer **incense** which was a duty reserved for the priests alone (*see Ex. 30:1-10; Num. 16:40*).

In his pride, Uzziah wished to have spiritual as well as political authority over the people. Uzziah’s presumptuous act recalls Korah’s rebellion (*Num. 16:1-40*). Azariah’s rebuke still offers Uzziah the chance to repent and leave, and it is only in the course of his **angry** outburst against the priests that the king is struck with a skin disease.

Uzziah’s **leprosy** meant he could no longer enjoy personal worship at the temple (v. 21). Rather than caring for the temple and building it up as God had said David’s son would do, Uzziah could not even enter its courtyard. The king’s leprosy was an outward evidence of his inward uncleanness.

1. Define pride in your own words...
2. Proverbs 16:5 says: “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.” Why do you think pride is such an offense to the Lord?
3. What are the effects that pride has on a person? How does it affect those around them?
4. Define humility in your own words...
5. How can you nurture humility in your life?

Application & Prayer

- Are you aware of pride in your life and how it is manifested? Will you identify and write down a few of those areas? How can you guard against being prideful in those areas?
- Pray about how can you lovingly help a friend identify pride in his/her life? Will you allow them to do the same for you?