

2 Chronicles 26

King James Version (KJV)

26 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. (Uzziah is called Azariah in 2Kings-14; it must be 3 forms of the same name)

² He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. (Eloth is a port city on the Gulf of Akaba, on the Red Sea; after the king of Edom had died, Judah regained access to the Red Sea)

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. (Second longest reign in Judah – only second to the evil king Manasseh)

⁴ And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did. (In Amaziah's early days, before he fell to idol worship)

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. (This Zechariah is an unknown prophet) 1Chronicles-28:9 (Seek the Lord and He will be found of you)

⁶ And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines. (Gath had been the home of Goliath, in earlier times – It was one of the 5 main cities of the Philistines)

⁷ And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims. (These Arabians had been plundering the border cities in Judah while Joram had been king. See Chapter-21:16)

⁸ And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly. (God blessed him)

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.

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. (A defense against roaming Edomites and Arabians; husbandry - agriculture, breeding domestic animals; Carmel = fruitful)

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. (Hananiah was the general of the army under the king)

¹² The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred. (military officers)

¹³ And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. (Down from 1.1 million under Jehoshaphat; this is the result of 5 evil kings between Jehoshaphat and Uzziah)

¹⁴ And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. (habergeon - a coat of mail for armor)

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. (These engines were probably catapults) (cunning men= skilled men – an old English word)

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. (Only a priest was allowed to burn incense in the temple. Uzziah's ego got the best of him. He wanted to be a king and a priest)

¹⁷ And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: (This Azariah was the high priest. It took courage to tell the king that he was wrong. It could have cost them their life)

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.

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. (In Numbers-12 - a similar thing happened to Miriam, Moses & Aaron's sister. Numbers-16 - When Korah rebelled against Moses and burned incense, God killed him and his followers)

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 hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him. (Uzziah instantly got leprosy. Lepers were exiled away from the people to prevent contagion)

²¹ 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. (Jotham filled in for the king for 2 to 5 years)

²² Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, write. (Written in Isaiah-6, as well as by some of the Minor Prophets)

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; for they said, He is a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead. (The field of burial is not the same as the sepulcher of the kings. Because he was a leper)