

The Rise and Fall of King Uzziah

“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” (2 Chronicles 26:5).

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of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you” (2 Chronicles 24:20).

God's will for mankind is that the righteous **“shall be stronger and stronger”** (Job 17:9). This clearly is not the consistent experience of all. Some rise and fall as History repeats itself because people fail to learn from History. If God expects us to learn from ants and be wise (Proverbs 6:6), certainly we can also learn from fellow human beings and become even wiser. The divine purpose for learning from history is to impart hope, stability and success (Romans 15:4). Failure to learn from History, can make one like the Israelites at the time of Hosea - **“Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him”** (Hosea 8:3).

The life of King Uzziah as recorded in 2 Chronicles 26, furnishes great lessons for every one who is serious about making lasting success in this life and heaven at last.

- (1) He became a king at the age of 16 years and ruled for 52 years. (vs. 1-3). Age is no barrier to being used of God for any person who has prepared himself or herself. Joseph, David, Timothy and Mary were all youths who made themselves vessels of honour for God's use.
- (2) He did that which was right “according to all that his father Amaziah did” (vs. 4). 2 Chronicles 25:2 tells us that “Amaziah **did what was right** in the sight of the Lord, **but not with a perfect heart**”. Refined / cultured actions are not synonymous with righteousness. When children think that their parents are right and copy what they do, they can also unknowingly copy their ‘covered-up’ sins. **A leader's sin, is a leading sin!**

- (3) **“As long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper”** (vs. 5). God is the source of success, progress and prosperity to those who seek Him (3 John 2).
- (4) God gave him victory in battles, fame and favour (vs 7-8), when he lived right.
- (5) “Help from above” (Psalm 121:2) gave him the wisdom to excel in building work, inventions, administration, military might as well as propelled him into greatness and prominence (vs2,9-15); **“for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong”** (vs.15).
- (6) **“But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction...”** (vs 16). Pride always comes before destruction (Proverbs 11:2). **“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”** (I Corinthians 10:12).
- (7) Pride led to transgression, instant divine judgment with leprosy, loneliness and a shameful dead (vs. 17-24). God is not a respecter of persons! Past righteousness did not exempt him from divine punishment when he sinned (2 Chronicles 24:20)