



Kings: The Prideful Generation
King Uzziah
Pastor Cody Winkler

Main Text

1 Chronicles 26:1-15

Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who *was* sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers. Uzziah *was* sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. And he did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 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 prosper.**

⁶ Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities *around* Ashdod and among the Philistines. ⁷ **God helped him** against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites. ⁸ Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong. ⁹ And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them. ¹⁰ Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; *he also had* farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for he loved the soil. ¹¹ Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, *one* of the king's captains. ¹² The total number of chief officers of the mighty men of valor *was* two thousand six hundred. ¹³ And under their authority *was* an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. ¹⁴ Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings *to cast* stones. ¹⁵ And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. **So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.**

Uzziah's Success

The Bible says as long as Uzziah sought the Lord, God made him prosper. Uzziah's success was not his own.

How do you guard your heart from taking credit for success?

What are areas of your life that you have had "success" that are obviously a result of God's blessing?

Uzziah's Sin

I Chronicles 26:16-23

Uzziah's downfall began with the sin of self-sufficiency. He literally took the place of the priest.

In what ways do you tend to be self-sufficient?

How can you remain totally reliant on God, instead of taking things into your own hands?

Pride entered King Uzziah's heart as he began to credit himself with his success. Even though God uses us and gifts us, we have to remain humble that all that comes from God.

Are there areas of your life that you like to receive credit?

What have you experienced because of your pride?

How do you ensure you don't pass pride on to others (children, friends, etc)?

Breaking Free From Pride

James 4:7-10

Submit to God

Resist the devil

Draw near to God

Cleanse your hands and heart

There isn't always a formula to avoiding sin, but James lays out a very clear path to remain humble. Take a moment to consider what needs to be submitted to God so you can be freed from pride. Meditate on this word and work through these steps to break free from haughtiness.

Read Proverbs 18:12 and pray for one another.