



How Far Do You Really Want to Go?

Isaiah 6:1 (NKJV)

6:1 **In the year that King Uzziah died**, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

December 31, 2019

Big Question: Will we last in the future?

Key Fact: Uzziah started to reign at 16 years old (v1) and ruled for 52 years (v3)

Fun Fact: Uzziah reigned for **13 of our presidential terms** or since I was 9 years old.

I. Uzziah Looks Like He Is Going To Last Forever

2 Chronicles 26:1–27:1 (NKJV)

KEY VERSES (v1,3)

1 Now all the people of Judah took **Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.**

2 He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

3 **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.

4 And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

KEY VERSE TWO (v5)

5 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.

Note: In 2019, this makes it the 10th largest army in the world

KEY VERSE THREE (v15)

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.**

II. Uzziah Comes To a Surprising End

KEY VERSE Four (v16)

1. He becomes lifted up with pride at 68 years old

- 16 But **when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.**

2. He is confronted about his change of direction (He wants to burn incense in the temple)

- 17 So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the Lord—valiant men. 18 And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the Lord God.”

3. He refuses to allow anyone to correct him

- 19 Then **Uzziah became furious**; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And **while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead**, before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the incense altar. 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; **so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the Lord had struck him.**

4. He dies as a leper and isolated at age 68 (Older people can make bad decisions)

- 21 **King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house**, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord. Then Jotham his son was over the king’s house, judging the people of the land. 22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote. 23 So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the kings, for they said, “He is a leper.” Then Jotham his son reigned in his place. Jotham Reigns in Judah

Conclusion: What will your end of life story be?

Next Time: Four Strategies for Building Your Dreams for The Future (January Series)