

THE REIGN OF AZARIAH/UZZIAH IN JUDAH
(2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26:1-23)

- I. Azariah's IDENTITY (2 Kings 15:1; 2 Chron. 26:1)
 - A. Son of Amaziah, king of JUDAH
 - B. Also called UZZIAH (2 Kings 15:13, 30, 32, 34; cf. 2 Chron. 26:1; Isa. 1:1; Hos. 1:1; Amos 1:1; Zech. 14:5; Matt. 1:8)
- II. Azariah's Reign SUMMARIZED (2 Kings 15:1-4)
 - A. His place in TIME (15:1-2)
 - 1. Reign began in the 27th year of JEROBOAM II in Israel—767 BC
 - 2. Reign began at age SIXTEEN and lasted FIFTY-TWO years
 - 3. His MOTHER was Jecoliah
 - B. The CHARACTER of his reign (15:3-4; cf. 2 Chron. 26:4-5, 16)
 - 1. "He did RIGHT" in God's sight
 - 2. He PERMITTED unauthorized SACRIFICES at "the HIGH PLACES"
- III. Azariah's Reign DESCRIBED (2 Kings 15:5; 2 Chron. 26:6-21)
 - A. What he ACCOMPLISHED (2 Chron. 26:6-15)
 - 1. CONQUERED cities of the PHILISTINES
 - 2. Put the AMMONITES under TRIBUTE
 - 3. Extended CONTROL southward all the way to EGYPT
 - 4. FORTIFIED Jerusalem

5. Strengthened their security in the WILDERNESS building TOWERS and CISTERNS
6. Increased his WEALTH with LIVESTOCK and PRODUCE
7. Expanded his MILITARY

B. Why he SUCCEEDED (2 Chron. 26:5, 15)

1. God PROSPERED him (26:5)
2. He was MARVELOUSLY HELPED until he was STRONG (26:15)

C. How he FAILED (2 Chron. 21:16-21; 2 Kings 15:5)

1. In PRIDE, he presumed to act as PRIEST
2. When confronted, he became ENRAGED
3. God smote him with LEPROSY on his FOREHEAD
4. His son JOTHAM was established as REGENT

IV. Azariah's END (2 Kings 15:6-7; 2 Chron. 26:22-23)

- A. For further information, CHECK ELSEWHERE
- B. Azariah DIED and was BURIED

V. Lessons

- A. POWER can CORRUPT the most DEVOUT of men
- B. PROSPERITY can lead to great PRESUMPTION
 1. Illustrates how a LIFETIME of righteousness can be STAINED by a MOMENT of sin
 2. Demonstrates the UNIVERSAL need of God's GRACE