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26 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 Jeholiah of Jerusalem. **4** And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. **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... **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. **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." **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...
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1. A good beginning

- a. Uzziah (also called Azariah—2 Kn. 15), began his reign in Judah at age 16 & ruled for 52 years
- b. Uzziah did what was right all the days of the prophet Zechariah
 - a1. There might be a hint that Zechariah guided the king & kept him on track
 - a2. Some kings, like Joash, needed a strong godly advisor to stay focused
- c. God blessed Uzziah
 - a1. Uzziah built great cities, including Elath (the port city at the south end of the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea)
 - a2. He was a great farmer & husbandman with much livestock, vines, & produce
 - a3. Uzziah won many battles & expanded land
 - b1. He defeated the Philistines, breaking down walls to their major cities
 - b2. He even built Jewish cities in Philistine territory
 - b3. He defeated the Arabs at Gur-Baal

b4. The Ammonites were made to pay tribute

b5. He made the Menuites, an Arab tribe in NE Sinai, to pay tribute

a4. Uzziah's fame spread to Egypt

d. God's overwhelming blessing on Uzziah turned into arrogance on his part, like Nebuchadnezzar

2. Out of place

- a. Uzziah felt that he could do what he wanted to do
 - a1. David had done so with Uriah & Bathsheba
 - a2. Solomon put heavy burdens on the people to pay for his projects & lavish living
- b. Uzziah, either out of boredom or pride, decided to make a sacrifice to the Lord in the Temple
 - a1. This was only for priests descended from Aaron (Leviticus)
 - a2. Uzziah insisted on violating the Law
 - a3. God struck Uzziah with leprosy (he had to be isolated, so Jotham ruled for his father)
- c. Uzziah had been given a high place & much success, but he was not content with it
 - a1. Mt. 6 (1 Tim. 6:6) contentment in the blessings of the Lord is great gain
 - a2. A man content with a morsel of bread is happier than a discontented king
- d. Uzziah lost sight of God's grace to him
- e. The priests rushed him out of the temple
 - a1. Uzziah's glory turned into disgrace
 - a2. Had Uzziah been able to sacrifice in the Temple, this would not have satisfied him
- f. Covetousness brings no fulfillment
 - a1. No amount of money, possessions, fame, travel, or attractive partners can bring satisfaction
 - a2. The hedonistic fantasy chase always ends in disappointment & ruin (Eccl. 12)
- g. As with Lucifer, Uzziah fell from being on top to landing on the bottom (from majesty to misery)