



Introduction to 2 Chronicles 26

Sunday, May 17, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

The scene opens in modern Israel. A caravan of archaeologists drive out to their dig site. Shovels dig into the dry dirt kicking up dust. Suddenly, a shovel strikes something hard. The team runs over and uncovers an ossuary. In ancient letters read to words, “Here lies the bones of Uzziah, King of Judah. DO NOT OPEN.”

Uzziah was a great king, with a bad ending. He ascended to the throne at the age of 16 and ruled in Jerusalem for 52 years. He sought after God for most of his life. His reign brought prosperity for Judah. He fought off enemies, built up the city, dug cisterns, and expanded agriculture. All of Uzziah’s success made him proud and led to his downfall.

Context

Chronicles recounts the reigns of the various kings of Judah up until the exile. By Uzziah’s time the kingdom wavered between following God and turning their own ways. Uzziah’s father, Amaziah, only served God half-heartedly. He listened to the prophets of God, but set up foreign idols to worship alongside God. Amaziah’s good start gave way to idolatry. Uzziah fits in this general pattern. He starts out following God, but eventually turns to his own pride and disobeys. Uzziah tries to fulfill the duties of the priests in the Temple. God strikes him down with leprosy and he is forced to live separated from the people. As Chronicles continues the kings of Judah will eventually sacrifice children to Baal. Chronicles ends with Judah turning away from God and going into exile. Like its kings Judah started strong with devotion to God, but in pride turned away.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Pride and Punishment”

Read 2 Chronicles 26

His Success

- Military Victories (6)
- Famous and Powerful (8)
- Construction in the City (9)
- Development in the Country (11)
- Inventor

His Downfall

- Pride (16)
- Trespass of the Temple (16)
- Rage (19)
- Leprosy (19)

You grasp the censor when...

- you take credit for what God has done.
- you feel you're too important to be restrained by God's laws.
- you burst out in anger when you don't get your way.
- you no longer listen to correction

A Tragic Tale of Pride and Punishment

Discuss

- 1) What makes you angry? Why does that make you angry?
- 2) Define pride. How does it show up in your life? What are some ways you “grab the censor?”
- 3) What does a life of humility before God look like?
- 4) The priests tried to keep Uzziah from offering incense to God. How can you speak truth to power?
- 5) How does Uzziah point us to Christ? (cf. Hebrews 13:11-14; Isaiah 53:2-3, John 18:37/Hebrews 7:24)