

THE INACCURATE SET MAN

LESSON 24 (ABC)

QUESTION

READ 2 CHRONICLES 26

THE KINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT PICTURE SET MEN OF THE LOCAL CHURCH. USING UZZIAH AS AN EXAMPLE POINT OUT THE INACCURACIES IN HIS LIFE/LEADERSHIP.

ANSWERS – LESSON 24

THE INACCURATE SET MAN (UZZIAH)

INACCURATE PRIORITY

HE STRENGTHENS JUDAH'S TRADING POSITION FIRST.

2 Chr 26:2

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

He built Elath – terminal port city for Solomon's fleet. This was the site of Jehoshaphat's failure(2 Chron. 20:36,37). In his closing days Jehoshaphat became a merchant. It is sad when a king with a mandate to demonstrate God's kingdom becomes a merchant.

This act by Uzziah demonstrates a weakness in priority. By building Elath first he became busy with building ships, import and export rather than breaking idols and groves.

A LIMITATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Chr 26:4

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.(NKJ)

His sense of doing right was limited by his father's example. He passed beyond his father in economic achievements, but not beyond his father in righteousness. The sight of the Lord dictated his behaviour up to his father's example.

A MYSTIC PURSUIT OF GOD

2 Chr 26:5

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.(NKJ)

He sought God. This looks like a good thing. But his pursuit of God seems to be motivated by “visions” rather than a genuine heart interest. A genuine heart interest would be characterised by idol destruction.

OPENS DOORS FOR ENEMY INVASION

2 Chr 26:6

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.(NKJ)

He broke down the walls. This also looks like a good thing but when you break down the walls, you open yourself to influence by heathen nations.

5. HE BECAME FAMOUS – NOT GOD

2 Chr 26:7-8

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.(NKJ)

His name means “strength of Jehovah”. He used the strength of Jehovah to “strengthen himself exceedingly”(old KJV).

This king was building his own kingdom – not God’s.

PROTECTING PERSONAL INTERESTS

2 Chr 26:9

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.(NKJ)

When a man builds his own kingdom, he needs to guard and protect it. Uzziah built towers to keep watch over his own kingdom.

DISTRACTION FROM PURPOSE

INACCURATE PURSUITS

2 Chr 26:10

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.(NKJ)

His true love was not God – it was farming. Here is a king with a mandate to demonstrate the kingdom of God – he chooses farming.

8. A POWERFUL ARMY, BUT NO IDOLS BROKEN.

2 Chr 26:11-15

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.

(NKJ)

He developed a system of defence beyond his time. Necessity is the mother of invention. The necessity to protect his kingdom, not God's heritage was his motive. He did not dismantle any illegitimate worship structures through his army.

He conquered no idols or high places. His ministry became a high place.

CROSSING THE BOUNDARY OF HIS AUTHORITY

2 Chr 26:16-21

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.

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.
(NKJ)

When his position and kingdom was established, He realized that the priesthood was the only area he had not conquered. He violated spiritual authority in his intention to offer incense. He was judged for his intention.

MISINTERPRETATION OF DIVINE EMPOWERMENT

His name means “strengthened by Jehovah”.

he conquered economically(Elath)

he conquered evil inclination(did right)

he conquered indifference(sought God)

he conquered animal husbandry

he conquered in agriculture

he conquered his enemies(Phislistines, Arabians, Meunites)

he conquered militarily(powerful army with powerful weapons)

conquered obscurity

2 Chr 26:15

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.(NKJ)

His conquests were mainly economical and political – not spiritual.

From a position of economic and political strength he sought to conquer the priesthood.

With power came presumption and pride. He intended to offer incense – crossing the boundary of his call. For this he was struck with leprosy and was barred from the temple. He lived in isolation, not enjoying the fruit of his labour.

Uzziah did not realize that he was helped by God. He thought that he became great because of his own strength. He aspired to a ministry that was not his.

HE MISINTERPRETED DIVINE EMPOWERMENT AND ASSISTANCE. HE FAILED TO SEE GOD'S POWER IN HIS LIFE. HE BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO RULING EVERYWHERE. HE FELT HE NEEDED TO RULE IN THE TEMPLE ALSO. HE WAS CONQUERED BY HIS OWN PRIDE.

BLOCKING THE VIEW

When he strengthened Judah's trading position, THE ECONOMY WAS SEEN.

When he did right, HIS FATHER WAS SEEN.

When he sought God, ZECHARIAH WAS SEEN.

When he broke the walls, ENEMY WAS SEEN.
When he built towers, HIS KINGDOM WAS SEEN.
When he built the defence system, HIS ARMY WAS SEEN.
When he went into the temple, JUDGEMENT WAS SEEN.

THIS KING SINGLEHANDEDLY BLOCKED THE NATION FROM SEEING GOD.
THIS KING BROKE NO IDOLS, DID NOT BRING THE NATION TOGETHER
FOR PRAYER, DID NOT CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER, DID NOT DEVELOP
NATIONAL PASSION FOR GOD.
THIS IS THE SET MAN WHO PREVENTS THE PEOPLE FROM SEEING GOD.
HE WAS LIKE A SKYSCRAPER BLOCKING THE SUN.

THEREFORE, IT WAS WHEN HE DIED THAT ISAIAH SAW THE LORD.

Isa 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.(NKJ)

It was his death that activated prophetic ministry.

Uzziah represents glamorous set men/ministries today that block the people from seeing God.

ISOLATION

Uzziah was struck with Leprosy. He was cut off from his people and the temple. He was cut off from the revelatory presence of God. He had to live in past revelation.

2 Chr 26:18-21

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.

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.
(NKJ)

PRODUCE DAMAGED SONS

2 Chr 27:2

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.(NKJ)

Uzziah had no relationship with his son and his son had no relationship with God. His son Jotham made a decision no to go into the temple. He misunderstood the judgement of God. He did not have leprosy, but behaved like a leper.

FAILURE TO BRING CORPORATE TRANSITION.

2 Chr 27:2

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.(NKJ)

Uzziah failed to bring transition in the people – they still acted corruptly.

HIS LIFE MAY BE COMPARED WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL, AN ACCURATE SET MAN.

Phil 1:12

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,(NKJ)

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN HIS LIFE FURTHERED THE GOSPEL - IT BROUGHT GLORY TO GOD.

When he went down to the river to pray, Lydia was saved.

Acts 16:13-14

13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.(NKJ)

When he was imprisoned, the jailor and his family were saved.

Acts 16:30-31

30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."(NKJ)

When shipwrecked the islanders experienced the grace of God.

Acts 28:8-9

8 And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.

9 So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.(NKJ)

When imprisoned in Rome, it was an opportunity for the gentiles to hear the gospel.

Acts 28:29-31

29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

30 Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him,

31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

(NKJ)

Phil 1:20

according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.(NKJ)

He was an instrument for Christ's glory. His body was used to magnify Christ, just like the way a telescope magnifies the stars. Paul did not block others from seeing Christ. He made others see Christ better.