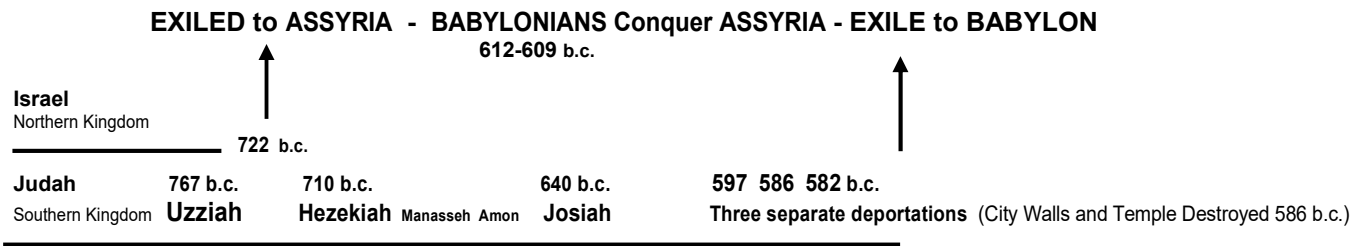


GOOD Start BAD Finish ~ 2 Chronicles 26:1-23

→ Scripture Reading- 2 Chron 26:3-4, 5, 15-16

INTRODUCTION



Choosing to SEEK God ~ 2 Chronicles 26:1-15

¹ All the people of Judah had crowned Amaziah's sixteen-year-old son, Uzziah, as king in place of his father.
² After his father's death, Uzziah rebuilt the town of ELATH and restored it to Judah. ³ Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem. ⁴ He did what was PLEASING in the LORD's sight, just as his father, Amaziah, had done. ⁵ Uzziah SOUGHT God during the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. And as long as the king sought guidance from the LORD, God gave him success. (NLT)

⁵ He FOLLOWED God DURING the lifetime of Zechariah, who taught him how to honor God. As long as he followed the LORD, God caused him to succeed. (NET)

⁶ Uzziah declared war on the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. Then he built new towns in the Ashdod area and in other parts of Philistia. ⁷ God helped him in his wars against the Philistines, his battles with the Arabs of Gur, and his wars with the Meunites. ⁸ The Meunites paid annual tribute to him, and his fame spread even to Egypt, for he had become very powerful. ⁹ Uzziah built fortified towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the angle in the wall. (NLT)

¹⁰ He also constructed forts in the wilderness and dug many water cisterns, because he kept great herds of livestock in the foothills of Judah and on the plains. He was also a man who loved the soil. He had many workers who cared for his farms and vineyards, both on the hillsides and in the fertile valleys.

¹¹ Uzziah had an army of well-trained warriors, ready to march into battle, unit by unit. This army had been mustered and organized by Jeiel, the secretary of the army, and his assistant, Maaseiah. They were under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king's officials. ¹² These regiments of mighty warriors were commanded by 2,600 clan leaders. ¹³ The army consisted of 307,500 men, all elite troops. They were prepared to assist the king against any enemy. ¹⁴ Uzziah provided the entire army with shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and sling stones. ¹⁵ And he built structures on the walls of Jerusalem, designed by experts to protect those who shot arrows and hurled large stones from the towers and the corners of the wall. His fame spread far and wide, for the LORD gave him marvelous help, and he became very powerful. (NLT)

Powerful and FULL of Pride ~ 2 Chronicles 26:16-23

¹⁶ But when he had become powerful, he also became PROUD, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the LORD his God **by entering the sanctuary** of the LORD's Temple and **personally burning incense on the incense altar**. ¹⁷ Azariah the high priest went IN after him with eighty other priests of the LORD, ALL brave men. (NLT)

¹⁶ But once he became powerful, **his PRIDE destroyed him**. He **DISOBEYED** the Lord His God... (NET)

¹⁸ They **CONFRONTED** King Uzziah and said, It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is the work of the priests alone, the descendants of Aaron who are set apart for this work. Get **OUT** of the sanctuary, for you have **SINNED**. The LORD God will not honor you for this.

¹⁹ Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, became furious. But as he was standing there raging at the priests before the incense altar in the LORD's Temple, leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead.

²⁰ When Azariah the high priest and all the other priests saw the leprosy, they rushed him out. And the king himself was eager to get out because the LORD had struck him.

²¹ So King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in isolation in a separate house, for he was excluded from the Temple of the LORD. His son Jotham was put in charge of the royal palace, and he governed the people of the land.

He had **come to God in arrogance**; he **left His presence humiliated** and **stained** by the disease that God had sent in judgment. HOTC

IMPLICATION

⁵ He **followed God** DURING the lifetime of Zechariah, **who taught him how to honor God**. As long as he followed the LORD, **God caused him to succeed**. (NET)

⁵ He **SET himself to SEEK God**... (ESV)

Jeremiah 2:12–13 (CSB) Be appalled at this, heavens; be shocked and utterly desolated! This is the LORD's declaration. ¹³ For my people have committed a **double evil**: They have **abandoned ME**, the Fountain Of Living Water, and **dug cisterns** for themselves - cracked cisterns that cannot hold water.

TAKE AWAY ??

⁵ As long as he sought the LORD, **God gave him success**... (NIV)

⁷ **God helped him** against the... (NIV)

¹⁵ His fame spread far and wide, for the LORD gave him marvelous help, and he became very powerful. (NLT)

We are never closer to Failure **THAN** during our greatest Successes. If we fail to recognize God's part in our achievements, they are no better than failures. LASB

¹⁶ But once he became powerful, **his PRIDE destroyed him**. He **DISOBEYED** the Lord His God... (NET)

Proverbs 16:18 (CSB) Pride comes before Destruction, AND an Arrogant spirit before a Fall.

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, **And pour contempt on all my pride**.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.