### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 26

1So, all the people of the land took UzZiAh [also known as AzariAh], who was just 16 years old, and appointed him as king in place of his father AmaziAh.  
  
2He’d been away, building ElAth, but he returned to Judah after the king went to sleep with his ancestors. 3So UzZiAh was only 16 years old when he started his reign, and he ruled in JeruSalem for 52 years. His mother’s name was JecheliAh, and she was from JeruSalem.  
  
  
4[UzZiAh] did what was upright before Jehovah, every bit as much as did his father AmaziAh. 5He searched for Jehovah throughout the entire life of ZachariAh, who was the one who [showed him] the need to fear Jehovah.  
  
So, during the period that he was searching for Jehovah, all of his ways were blest... 6Therefore, when he went to war with the Philistines, he tore down the walls of Gath, JabNe, and AshDod, and he built cities around AshDod, right there in the midst of the Philistines.  
  
7For Jehovah gave him power over the Philistines, the Arabians, those who lived on The Rock, and the Minaeans. 8The Minaeans even brought gifts to him, and his name became famous beyond Egypt.  
  
  
9Thereafter, UzZiAh built [battle] towers around JeruSalem’s gates, at the corners [of the walls], at the gates and corners of the walls in the valley below, and he strengthened the [city walls]. 10He also built forts in the desert and he dug many wells, because there were so many cattle in the plains of ShepheLa.  
  
In addition, he sent vinedressers into the mountains and to CarMel, because he was fond of farming.  
  
11However, UzZiAh [was also fond of] war, because he fought many battles... The accounts of these were recorded by the Scribe JeiEl and Judge MasSiAh, from what they were told by AnaniAh, the king’s second-in-command.  
  
12There were 2,600 generals in his army 13[that were appointed over] 307,500 men. These were always prepared for war and ready to [fight for] the king against his many opponents. 14And UzZiAh took good care of [his army] by providing them with:  
  
 • Shields,  
 • Spears,  
 • Helmets,  
 • Chest plates,  
 • Bows, and   
 • Stone slings.  
  
15He also had war machines built for them in JeruSalem by an engineer, which were used to attack the towers and corners of [the city walls]. The machines were used to shoot arrows and to throw huge boulders!  
  
In fact, they became famous throughout the whole earth at the time, for he had such wonderful help… That is, until he grew strong.  
  
  
16However, after he became strong, his heart became very corrupt and he started sinning against his God Jehovah; for he entered the Most Holy [in the Temple of Jehovah] to burn incense on the [sacred] Incense Altar!  
  
17Well, the [High] Priest AzariAh and 80 mighty Priests of Jehovah went in after him 18and they resisted King UzZiAh, saying to him:  
  
 ‘UzZiAh, you aren’t allowed to burn incense to Jehovah!  
  
 ‘That may only be done by the Priests who’ve descended from Aaron and have been made holy to burn the incense!  
  
 ‘Now, leave this Holy Place; for you have left Jehovah!  
  
 ‘This glory won’t be given to you by Jehovah our God!’  
  
19Well, this made UzZiAh furious!  
  
For there he was with the incense pan in his hand, ready to burn incense inside the Most Holy... And as he was raging against the Priests, leprosy started to appear on his forehead, right there in front of the Priests in the Temple of Jehovah and in front of the Incense Altar!  
  
20So when AzariAh (the High Priest) and the other Priests turned to look at him, they saw the leprosy in his forehead, and they pushed him out of the Temple... But even he was in a hurry to leave, because Jehovah was disciplining him!  
  
21Well, King UzZiAh had leprosy until the day he died, and he was kept in a home for lepers, cut off from the Temple of Jehovah. As a result, his son JoTham ruled over his kingdom and judged the people of the land.  
  
22{Look!} The rest of the things that UzZiAh said, from beginning to end, were written by the Prophet IsaiAh (son of Amoz).  
  
23Then UzZiAh went to sleep with his ancestors, and they buried him in a tomb in the graveyard of his ancestors, but not among the kings, because they said:  
  
 ‘He’s a leper.’  
  
Then his son JoTham became the king after him.