



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 44.4

Old Testament Survey: The Divided Monarchy, Judah (Part 4)

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
In this final lesson on the Divided Monarchy (Judah), we read about Azariah/Uzziah in both the histories of Kings and the histories in Chronicles. Before we delve into those texts, we pause and consider his name. The Prophet Historian in Kings generally uses the name "Azariah." The name in Hebrew means, "Yahweh is [my] help." But will his name describe his life?
- Prayer for Submission
- Video (38 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "...he was marvelously helped, till he was strong. But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction" (2 Chron. 26:15-16). This passage should create in us, the tremor felt in the earth in the days of King Uzziah! We should experience a personal earthquake of major proportions. My driver Jose should be shouting in our brain about thanking God for each day, for each breath, for each opportunity, and for each encounter. As things go well, we should not be proud, nor should we take credit! We should readily admit, both internally and to others, with genuine hearts, that God is at work and God is responsible for all good things and every good accomplishment.
May I suggest you join me in a habit of each morning and each evening doing something very specific? Each morning take a moment to think about your day. Then in prayer, dedicate that day to the Lord.
- ❖ "Azariah... Uzziah..." (1 Kings; 2 Chron.).
Both of these names speak of a hope and a position of faith. "Yahweh is my help," and "Yahweh is my strength." These are wonderful labels to wear. They need to be lived-out confessions and experiences, however, and not simply worn like a fish bumper sticker or a "WWJD" bracelet! If Azariah had lived up to this name, then he would have found Yahweh as his help, and he would not have been angry with the priests for trying to stop his sin. If Uzziah had lived up to his name, then he would have never put himself in a position of arrogant pride, where his personal value in his offerings to God seemed to trump the rules of God! This was a man suitably named, but lost in action! He thought that his own help and his own strength could trump that of God's message, God's priests, and God's instructions for worship and obedience. He was wrong. God is holy (repeat three times), and not someone we traipse before in our good times and our own ways. His glory fills the entire earth and more. His presence causes the foundations of heaven to quake. Let him be your help and your strength. He is more than enough, and none of us – NOT ONE OF US—is adequate on our own.
- ❖ "Woe is me!" (Isa. 6:5).
Each of us only can be in God's presence without resulting destruction, if our uncleanness is touched by the sacrifice of God's altar. This sacrifice, we are taught, is the body and blood of Jesus. It is his sacrifice that truly removes sin. By his stripes we are healed. Isaiah speaks plainly about the sacrifice that atones for sin in 53:4ff: Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. This sacrifice of Jesus cleans the unclean, and readies the servant for the call and mission of God! This allows us to worship and serve God in humility and forgiveness!

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