

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 KINGS 15

2 KINGS 15:1-7 - AZARIAH (AKA UZZIAH), KING OF JUDAH

AZARIAH (UZZIAH) RULED FOR 52 YEARS! AT SOME POINT IN HIS REIGN HE WAS "STRUCK" BY THE LORD WITH LEPROSY (V. 5). AS A RESULT OF THIS CONDITION HE WAS MOVED TO A SEPARATE HOUSE AND DAY TO DAY RULERSHIP OF THE KINGDOM WAS DONE BY HIS SON JOTHAM (MORE ON HIS RULE LATER). THIS SEEMS LIKE A SAD SITUATION ESPECIALLY FOR A KING WHO "DID RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD" ACCORDING TO VERSE 3.

2 CHRONICLES 26:3-5 - MORE INFORMATION INTO AZARIAH/UZZIAH'S REIGN. LEPROSY EXPLAINED.

V. 5 - UZZIAH DOES WELL ESPECIALLY DURING THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF ZECHARIAH (DIFFERENT THAN THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH). "AS LONG AS HE SOUGHT THE LORD, GOD PROSPERED HIM..." YEP.

2 CHRONICLES 26:6-15 - "GOD PROSPERED HIM" = GREAT MILITARY VICTORY, ECONOMIC GROWTH, ABUNDANCE

V. 8 - INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS AND VERY STRONG

V. 13 - GREAT POWER

V. 15 - FAMOUS AND STRONG

2 CHRONICLES 26:16-21 — WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN?

JUST AT THE POINT WHEN UZZIAH SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVING THE LORD THE MOST GLORY, HE IS INSTEAD LIFTED UP WITH PRIDE. HE BECOMES STRONG (V. 16) AND THEN PRIDE MAKES HIM WEAK. SO WEAK THAT HE THINKS HE'S SOMETHING HE'S NOT (A PRIEST) WHICH LEADS TO PHYSICAL DEVASTATION (LEPROSY).

THE GREATEST DISEASE UZZIAH SUFFERED FROM WAS NOT SEEN ON HIS SKIN. IT WAS THE PRIDE IN HIS HEART. HIS DEPENDANCE ON THE LORD LEAD TO GREAT THINGS FOR THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH AND GOD'S PEOPLE. HIS SUCCESS WAS FROM THE LORD AS A REWARD FOR HIS OBEDIENCE. HIS DOWNFALL WAS THE RESULT OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM YAHWEH. HUMBLE STRENGTH. HUMBLE SUCCESS. HUMBLE VICTORY. ONLY POSSIBLE WITH A CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON THE STRENGTH-GIVER, THE SUCCESS-PROVIDER AND VICTORY-MAKER/

2 KINGS 15:8-12 - ZECHARIAH, KING OF ISRAEL

V. 12 - ZECHARIAH COMPLETES THE 4TH GENERATION OF KINGS OF ISRAEL IN THE LINE OF JEHU. JEHU WAS "REWARDED" WITH A SMALL DYNASTY OVER ISRAEL AFTER HE WAS USED BY GOD TO CUT OFF THE EVIL LINE OF AHAB & JEZEBEL. NO ONE IN HIS LINE, INCLUDING JEHU HIMSELF, FEARED THE LORD OR REJECTED IDOLATRY.

"WITH THE PASSING OF JEROBOAM II, THE NATION HAS REACHED THE "FOURTH GENERATION" OF THE DIVINE PROMISE TO JEHU (10:30) AND HAS RETURNED TO THE UNSTABLE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM IMPLIED BY 1 KINGS 14:15 AND ILLUSTRATED IN 1 KINGS 14—16 (BEFORE THE HOUSES OF OMRI AND JEHU WERE ESTABLISHED). REIGN NOW FOLLOWS REIGN IN QUICK SUCCESSION, AS THE READER MOVES TOWARD THE END OF ISRAEL'S STORY." (ESV STUDY BIBLE)

AFTER JEHU'S DYNASTY, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL BEGINS ITS QUICK SPIRAL DOWN TO DESTRUCTION. THE NEXT AND FINAL SEASON OF THIS KINGDOM WILL BE MARKED BY INSTABILITY, QUICK RULE, AND CORRUPTION.

V. 8 - ZECHARIAH RULES FOR 6 MONTHS. HE IS OVERTHROWN BY SHALLUM THE SON OF JABESH

2 KINGS 15:13-15 - SHALLUM, KING OF ISRAEL

V. 13 - SHALLUM RULES FOR 1 MONTH. HE IS OVERTHROWN BY MENAHEM THE SON OF GADI.

2 KINGS 15:16-22 - MENAHEM, KING OF ISRAEL

V. 17 - MENAHEM RULES FOR 10 YEARS.

DURING THE REIGN OF MENAHEM, ASSYRIA IS ON THE RISE AS THE REGIONAL POWERHOUSE AND EMPIRE. MENAHEM PAID 1000 TALENTS OF SILVER TO PUL, THE KING OF ASSYRIA (AKA TIGLATH-PILESER), TO KEEP PEACE BETWEEN ASSYRIA AND ISRAEL. HE GETS THIS MONEY BY HARSHLY TAXING HIS CITIZENS. 1000 TALENTS IS EQUIVALENT TO 37 TONS OF SILVER.

2 KINGS 15:23-26 - PEKAHIAH, KING OF ISRAEL

V. 23 - PEKAHIAH RULES FOR 2 YEARS. HE IS THE SON OF MENAHEM. HE IS OVERTHROWN BY PEKAH, ONE OF HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS.

2 KINGS 15:27-31 - PEKAH, KING OF ISRAEL

V. 29 - PEKAH RULES FOR 20 YEARS. HE IS OVERTHROWN BY HOSHEA THE SON OF ELAH (V. 30)

JEROBOAM II RULES FOR 41 YEARS. THE 5 KINGS THAT FOLLOW HIM RULE FOR A COMBINED 32 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS!

IT IS DURING THE REIGN OF PEKAH THAT THE ASSYRIAN INVASION AND CAPTIVITY BEGINS. THE PREVIOUS DYNASTY WAS ALIGNED WITH ASSYRIA (MENAHEM) FOR A TIME BUT NOW ASSYRIA IS ON THE MARCH FOR DOMINANCE IN THE REGION (AND LIKELY LOOKING FOR BETTER ECONOMIC POSITIONING IN RELATIONSHIP TO EGYPT). MORE THAN HALF OF THE KINGDOM IS NOW LOST TO ASSYRIA (SEE MAP).

2 KINGS 15:32-38 - JOTHAM, KING OF JUDAH

V. 33 - JOTHAM BECAME KING AT AGE 25 AND RULED FOR 16 YEARS. HIS DEATH AT 41 IS NOTABLY YOUNG.

2 CHRONICLES 27:1-9 - MORE ABOUT JOTHAM'S REIGN

IN CONTRAST TO HIS FATHER, JOTHAM GREW/BECAME MIGHTY BECAUSE HE ORDERED HIS WAY BEFORE THE LORD. HIS FATHER (UZZIAH) STARTED STRONG BUT ENDED WEAK. SPIRITUALLY WEAK BECAUSE OF HIS PRIDE, AND LITERALLY BECAUSE OF HIS LEPROSY.

NET 2 CHRONICLES 27:6 - JOTHAM GREW POWERFUL BECAUSE HE WAS DETERMINED TO PLEASE THE LORD HIS GOD.



NAB 2 CHRONICLES 27:6 - THUS JOTHAM CONTINUED TO GROW STRONG BECAUSE HE LIVED RESOLUTELY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, HIS GOD.

NLT 2 CHRONICLES 27:6 - KING JOTHAM BECAME POWERFUL BECAUSE HE WAS CAREFUL TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD HIS GOD.

JPS 2 CHRONICLES 27:6 - JOTHAM WAS STRONG BECAUSE HE MAINTAINED A FAITHFUL COURSE BEFORE THE LORD HIS GOD.

DETERMINED TO PLEASE THE LORD. LIVED RESOLUTELY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD. CAREFUL TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE. MAINTAINED A FAITHFUL COURSE BEFORE THE LORD. THESE ARE GREAT DESCRIPTIONS OF HOW WE ALL SHOULD LIVE. UZZIAH STARTED STRONG AND FIZZLED OUT WHEN HIS PRIDE TOOK OVER. JOTHAM LEARNED THAT LESSON AND ENDURED, FAITHFULLY UNTO THE END.

THE HEBREW WORD FOR "MIGHTY" IN 2 CHRONICLES 27:6 IS CHAZAQ. IT IS THE EXACT SAME WORD USED IN 2 CHRONICLES 26:

2 CHRONICLES 26:15-16 - HENCE HIS (UZZIAH'S) FAME SPREAD AFAR, FOR HE WAS MARVELOUSLY HELPED UNTIL HE WAS STRONG. 16 BUT WHEN HE BECAME STRONG, HIS HEART WAS SO PROUD THAT HE ACTED CORRUPTLY, AND HE WAS UNFAITHFUL TO THE LORD HIS GOD,

WE EITHER ARRIVE AT A STRONG AND MIGHTY PLACE AND FORGET THE LORD OR WE ARRIVE AT A STRONG AND MIGHTY PLACE BECAUSE WE FAITHFULLY DEPEND ON THE LORD.

THIS IS A PRETTY TENSE TIME IN ISRAEL & JUDAH. ISRAEL IS ON THE VERGE OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION AND IT ISN'T CLEAR WHAT WILL BECOME OF JUDAH. ASSYRIA IS ENCREACHING ON THE LAND OF ISRAEL AND WILL SOON BE KNOCKING AT JUDAH'S DOOR. THE KINGS OF ISRAEL ARE FOOLISH AND FALLING LIKE DOMINOS. BUT THE KINGS OF JUDAH ARE FARING BETTER BECAUSE THEY ARE "ORDERING THEIR WAYS BEFORE THE LORD" AS JOTHAM DID (2 CHRONICLES 27:6). BUT IT SEEMS AS IF WE'RE ON THIN ICE AND THAT THE WHOLE THING COULD FALL APART SOON.

SO IT SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US THAT IN THE MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS OF GOD, HE IS PLEADING WITH HIS PEOPLE TO STAY CLOSE TO HIM. HOW IS HE DOING THIS? THROUGH HIS WORD! HOW ELSE? AND HIS WORD IS ALIVE AND WELL THROUGH FAITHFUL PROPHETS. IN FACT, WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF SOME OF THE GREATEST. LOOK AT THE TIMING OF THE FOLLOWING GREAT PROPHETS:

ISAIAH 1:1 - THE VISION OF ISAIAH THE SON OF AMOZ CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM, WHICH HE SAW DURING THE REIGNS OF **UZZIAH, JOTHAM, AHAZ AND HEZEKIAH**, KINGS OF JUDAH.

HOSEA 1:1 - THE WORD OF THE LORD WHICH CAME TO HOSEA THE SON OF BEERI, DURING THE DAYS OF **UZZIAH, JOTHAM, AHAZ AND HEZEKIAH**, KINGS OF JUDAH, AND DURING THE DAYS OF JEROBOAM THE SON OF JOASH, KING OF ISRAEL.

MICAH 1:1 - THE WORD OF THE LORD WHICH CAME TO MICAH OF MORESHETH IN THE DAYS OF **JOTHAM, AHAZ AND HEZEKIAH**, KINGS OF JUDAH, WHICH HE SAW CONCERNING SAMARIA AND JERUSALEM.

THE WORST OF TIMES BRINGS OUT THE BEST OF GOD'S PEOPLE, THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD. IN THE UNSTABLE TIMES WE LIVE IN NOW, RATHER THAN GROWING ANXIOUS OR FEARFUL BECAUSE OF THE NOISE, WE SHOULD BE STILL AND LISTEN FOR THE STEADY AND QUIET YET RESOUNDING VOICE OF THE LORD. WE HEAR HIS WORD THROUGH THE SPIRIT, CONFIRMED BY THE BIBLE. THE DEVIL'S JOB IS TO TRY AND KEEP THE CHAOS GOING SO WE GET TILTED AND FREAK OUT. THUS THE SURE AND STEADY WORD OF GOD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

DO NOT NEGLECT HIS WORD...FOR IT IS OUR NAVIGATOR IN THESE STORMY DAYS. GOD HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU.