

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 26

Once again, in Uzziah, we encounter a (generally) good, God fearing king who, with integrity from his youth, *“sought God in the days of Zechariah, & had understanding in the visions of God;”* (v5). Perhaps it was the various visions of Isaiah with which Uzziah was acquainted for in the famous 6th chapter of Isaiah we read,

“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. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” (verses 1-3)

Certainly, Isaiah and Uzziah were contemporaries. And Isaiah’s visions represent a treasure trove of prophecy looking forwards even to this present time. Who can fail to be inspired and excited by what Isaiah foretold of God’s future kingdom reign? If all he had to go by was Ch 2, he would have been invigorated....

‘Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people;’ (vs 2-4)

Most significantly, we read in 2Chron 26:5 concerning king Uzziah, *“...and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper!”* I want you to notice this. This resonates with God’s covenantal promise to Joshua (1:5-9). Moreover, every single chapter of this Book (2Chronicles) bears eloquent testimony to this truth. But the flip-side of the coin is also true: that when a king (or kingdom) breaks God’s covenant, God brings trouble and judgement upon them. Latterly in this chapter we read of Uzziah suffering leprosy on account of his pride. More specifically, Uzziah was dismissive of God’s specific instruction to retain a division in the jurisdiction of His kingdom. He imagined it was OK for himself (a civil authority) to usurp the priestly responsibility (an ecclesiastical authority) of offering burnt sacrifices in the temple (verses 16-18).

Undoubtedly, Uzziah was GENERALLY a wise, good and strong king. He accomplished great things and re-established Jerusalem as a centre of military dominance in the Mediterranean world (vs 7,8 & 15).

Alas, we read in verse 16, *“But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God.”* How often does this happen? How frequently does a good man experience success in some great work only to fall foul of compromise and mischief on account of pride? St Paul warns against recruiting zealous young men in Christian ministry for precisely this reason (1Tim 3:6). It seems that we ordinarily need to be humbled by the Lord before, like Nebuchadnezzar) we finally become serviceable to Him and learn,

“For wisdom and might are His. He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings” and... *“His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”* (Dan 2:20; 4:34-35)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 26:

- *How much are we guilty of playing fast and loose with what God has instructed regarding how He is to be worshipped? Have we gone with the flow and settled for practices constrained by human traditions?*
- *Have we suffered the loss of Christian influence in this world through personal pride?*
- *Does the Bible teach the separation of powers (ecclesiastical & civil/judicial). Have we been guilty of neglecting (by being disinterested in) the civil jurisdiction of human civilisation (i.e. politics)?*
- *Have the various visions of Isaiah excited your heart? Have you found yourself reading Isaiah (especially the last 30 chapters) with a heart full of joyful anticipation?*