

The background of the slide is a dark, almost black, space filled with intricate, swirling patterns of translucent purple and magenta smoke or mist. The smoke forms various loops, ribbons, and wisps, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors range from deep, dark purples to lighter, more ethereal pinks and lavenders, with some areas appearing more saturated than others.

Uzziah's Incense

2Chron. 26:1-23

Uzziah

- “Jehovah is my strength”; also known as Azariah
- King of Judah, son of Amaziah, appointed by the people to replace his father
- Amaziah did what was right... sometimes

Uzziah

- Uzziah was sixteen when he became king and reigned 52 years (791-739; co-regency with his father and son)
- His reign was the most prosperous except for that of Jehoshaphat since Solomon.
- Under the influence of the prophet Zechariah, he was faithful to God.
- He became famous and feared because God helped him in everything he did

Uzziah

- He became proud, and pride became his undoing
- Azariah the High Priest saw the direction of Uzziah's life, and with 80 armed priests, withstood him
- "In the meantime a great earthquake shook the ground and a rent was made in the temple, and the bright rays of the sun shone through it, and fell upon the king's face, insomuch that the leprosy seized upon him immediately." (Josephus Flavius, Antiquities of the Jews, IX 10:4).
- Amos 1:1 - "The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake."

From Incense to Leprosy

- Uzziah was struck with tzaraat while attempting to offer incense, was driven from the Temple, and compelled to live in isolation until his death
- The government was given to his son Jotham, and he was buried in a separate grave in the field of kings
- “That lonely grave in the royal necropolis would eloquently testify to coming generations that all earthly monarchy must bow before the inviolable order of the Divine will, and that no interference could be tolerated with that unfolding of the purposes of God”
(Dr. A. Greene, Kingdom of Israel, Easton’s Bible Dictionary).

Altar of Incense

- Altar of Incense (mizbach haketoros - Ex. 30:1-10), also called the Golden Altar (Num. 4:11), and the Inner Altar, stood inside in the Holy Place “before the Veil that is by the Ark of the Covenant.”

Leprosy

- Leprosy comes from the verb tzara which means "to have a skin disease."
- The root of the noun form tzaraath means "smiting"
- It was a general term for types of skin diseases often associated with moral impurity
- The Septuagint translates the term with the Greek word lepra, from which leprosy is translated in English Bibles.
- The Law of Moses identifies three manifestations of tzaraath or leprosy: as an affliction of human skin (Lev. 13:2), of garments (Lev. 13:47), and of houses (Lev. 14:34)

Uzziah's Entry

- He was born into a position of power, raised with all of the training, advantages, and access of royalty
- He was a descendant of Rehoboam, a true descendent of David
- He became king at age 16 in a co-regency with his father under the mentorship of a devout prophet, Zechariah
- His father, Amaziah, served the Lord... most of the time

Uzziah's Entry

- He began so well, had so much promise and tremendous support from God
 - Politically - He triumphed over all of his enemies.
 - Militarily - He was organized, prepared, sponsored, and creative.
 - Personally - His name was known all over the world.

Uzziah's Error

- He allowed success to fill him with pride in himself and forgetfulness of those who made him powerful, especially God
 - Rom. 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
 - Prov. 11:2 - “When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.”
 - Prov. 29:23 - “A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.”

Uzziah's Error

- He used his position to circumvent God's law.
- No one gets to do that with any expectation of escaping Judgment

Uzziah's Epitaph

- He was isolated from the people.
 - He would never again lead a military campaign, engage in diplomacy, sit in the royal court, ride before the people in a parade, sit at the table with his family
- When he died, he was buried with the epitaph, “He was a leper.”
 - Most public figures are obsessed with their legacy. Uzziah's will always be brief and abhorrent

Uzziah's Education

- Familiarity can breed disrespect
 - Isa. 6:1-8
 - Ex. 3:1-5
 - Judges 13:22 - “And Manoah said to his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God!”

Uzziah's Education

- One can begin well and end poorly
 - Gal. 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart”
 - 2Tim. 4:10 - “For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica”
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”
 - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Uzziah's Education

- Success can be as difficult to handle as failure
 - 1Tim. 6:17-19 - “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
 - Prov. 16:18-19 - “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.”