

# The SUDDEN Fall of PRIDE

**Evangelist Matthew Longmore**

**Main Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 26: 1 - 22

**Supporting Scriptures:** Psalm 119:18; Proverbs 14:34; Numbers 16:1-33; Matthew 7:13; Proverbs 14:12; 2 Chronicles 24; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Luke 10:18-19; 1 John 3:8; Proverbs 16:18; James 4:10

## Notes:

Jesus is the most high name. The name through which he does healing and casting out devils, I greet you in his name today.

As we go into the word let's keep an open mind as David prayed to open my eyes to see wonderful things from your law. (Psalm 119:18)

Pride to many is a positive word. Take pride in your work and your community and your home. Many take pride in their country. In some way or some form many take pride in various things. Pride was there in the beginning it was there before Adam and Eve. God has a different perspective on pride than we do.

Pride in our life is a character of strength, like we tell our children to not let anyone to put you down. So pride naturally elevates, and within us there is a nature to be wanted and honoured and elevated. Pride is the elevation of self. Pride says I should be heard and seen above others. So we look at pride and examine it and ask is pride something you should walk with and would God accept. And so we look at Uzziah who was king from 16 years old. At this age we are filled with passion and thrill. A lot of young men at this age are shifting from the passenger seat to the driver's seat. And I remember driving for the first time and I had my two feet on the gas and on the brake and it wasn't until the passenger showed me I was doing it wrong. When you're in the driver's seat you may not really know what you're doing. At this time Uzziah was walking with a level of humility and he was following instruction and when you find someone who is willing to follow instruction is very wise.

2 Chronicles 26:5. As long as the king sought guidance from the Lord, God gave him success. In the book of Joshua God says follow me and I will give you success. God has given us the desire to seek good things but success must be found in Him.

So Uzziah builds and builds and builds up the economy and restores things that were broken down. As his Father was he was successful as long as he sought the Lord. Amaziah turned away from the Lord and the King of Israel took many things away and broke down the walls. So Uzzaiah saw how his father was killed and how his end was and so huzzah says I don't want to end up as my dad and so he follows the instruction of God and builds his army and his walls. He demonstrates great skill, knowledge and understanding and his fame spread even to Egypt. Because of how successful he was his fame spread. He dug water cisterns and built forts. The people were prospering and because Uzziah was walking in righteousness the nation was exalted (Proverbs 14:34)

Such great leadership skills he is giving people jobs and had such a great start.

When God allows some level of status there is a spirit of Pride seeking to attach himself to that power. Uzziah thought he would never fall but here comes power status wealth and success not covered by a spirit of meekness and allows for pride to shift into that crack in our heart. You may not see it on the outside and as it spreads before long you will see its appearance. As Uzziah allowed pride to sneak in what he did not recognize is that pride will not share the throne it wants only to be number ONE. And the spirit of pride steps on to Uzziah's heart and when that happens it makes us think that we are in charge and have authority and causes us to sin against the Lord.

So the fall of Uzziah begins as he comes into the sanctuary to burn incense.

Incense was to be burnt only by the priest as they stood in the gap to cover the people. When that incense was burnt in the holy place they would bring into the Holy place and it would bring such a beautiful smell it would cause the Lord to be pleased and allow the presence of the Lord allow the people to prosper. Uzziah would have heard of the story of the rebellion of Korah and how they wanted to take on more responsibility in defiance of the word of God.

How soon do we forget what God has done for us and where God has brought us from. The Sons of Korah were there when God sat on the mountain and was terrified to face God on Mount Sinai and they asked Moses to be the mediator. And now because Moses wasn't a fighter, but a meek person, "insignificant Moses" they decided not to listen to him. And So God decided to separate the clean from the unclean as he has always done from creation.

They thought we're the same we are all the same there is no distinction and so God says bring your censers and burn the incense. And God was so angry they were going to come before him with Pride and he wanted to kill everyone and Aaron and Moses bowed and asked God for mercy.

God's judgment will step back in mercy when there is repentance.

God tells them to separate from these men.

Pride is deceptive that will make us feel as though we are standing when we are falling. It makes us feel as though we are like God.

The Earth opens up and swallows them and covers it up there is no trace of these men.  
Proverbs 10:7

Uzziah forgets about the sons of Korah and forgets that he is standing in the same position and walks with the incense in his own strength and 81 men stand before him and try to stop him. Don't die like your father and grandfather don't do this don't allow what you see to deceive you. Don't allow your job to make you think that you're too good to hang out with certain people. Or that you come from a certain family that will allow you to do your own thing. Uzziah let go of the censor, drop it!. It's not for you. But Uzziah becomes more angry because his heart is turned to stone. Your heart is now exposed to the elements of darkness and Satan has an opening to destroy your heart. And as the word of God comes to him he stands more arrogantly and as the Priest speaks to him he becomes angry and allows rebellion to rise up. So Uzziah decides to reject the word of the Lord. He doesn't realize this order was sent from heaven when Moses saw the pattern from heavenly things. This incense was given to only select individuals because it was God's order. And in the midst of Uzziah burning the incense the leprosy was shown. Leprosy usually takes many years to be seen. But his pride was so strong it showed up right away.

What the priest was seeing was a visible manifestation of an invisible condition of Pride. The spirit of pride was like leprosy to attack the sensation that you get from the word of God. It makes you completely out of touch and out of tune of the word of God. The leprosy of pride is eating away at his spiritual nerves. Whenever pride gets in our heart we can't feel the conviction of the Lord. We are so hardened and we can't describe the will of God because pride has attacked your spiritual nose and is blind and attacks the lips.

Leprosy and pride is contagious that is deadlier than Covid-19 it eats away and tortures the sensation of the nerves and skin of those who have it. And so Uzziah is removed from the throne. Pride will cause you to be removed from your position in God kingdom. Pride puts the light of God out and places darkness in its stead.

Anytime we choose to do what you want to do, death is knocking.

Matthew 7:13; Proverbs 14:12

Who is your fear of God attached to? Is it attached to a man? Do we seek God because he is God or do you seek God because you want to be known by men. Like Joah who fell into corruption after Jehodiah died.

Jesus came and said I am here to destroy the works of the devil. The only way we have access to defeat pride is to walk in the spirit of Christ in the spirit of humility. If you are not walking in him then pride is one step away to eat away at your soul.

What offering are you bringing today is it an offering of flesh or are you giving God what he is asking for. Once you give God what he wants there will be no leprosy. Otherwise you will be in the fate of destruction (Proverbs 16:18)

We should have been the one to have that cruel death of crucifixion but Jesus Stood in the gap and was the incense that goes up to God and he stopped the plague of the leprosy that separates a man from his God and his community. But God says you don't need to be like Uzziah because He has put his blood on the line so you have access to eternal life. I want you to come to me today. Don't allow your sin to hold you back anymore the leprosy of unforgiveness and bitterness. That pride that stops you from saying I am sorry you continue as though you are good. But it brings restlessness. Is there something holding you back now and causing you to lose the feeling of God. If I have compassion and the feelings of God I would feel it for the child who is spoken too harshly or for the brother in need. God wants to heal some lepers today. You don't have to be unclean anymore. You don't have to live and die a leper.

In the year that Uzziah died Isaiah saw the Lord. Someone just needs a glimpse of the Lord of how holy he is and righteous he is. Only one can save you but it won't happen until pride is put to death. When pride died Isaiah said woe it's me for I am undone. (Isaiah 6)

Many of us have a cover up of shame and are allowing pride to destroy you but God said I have a coal for your lips that can make you clean. Come with repentance and then you will be clean and God can say to you go for us. God wants to send someone to the lost words to bring healing and deliverance. So many are dying and the Lord has cleansed us to bring the message to the world.

When you get baptized you are baptized into an incorruptible body and you take on his identity. Today can be your day to take on that pure body and holy flesh and make you clean in the presence of the Lord. Humble yourself in the presence of the Lord and he will raise you up.