

- Recap of last week. In the North, Jehoahaz and his son Jehoash serve and continue in idolatry. Even contact with Elisha's bones causes a dead man to come back to life. The Syrians are finally vanquished and the Israelites recapture all their land. (2 Kings 13:1-25). In the South, Joash dies and his son Amaziah takes over when he is 25 and he reigns 49 years. He is largely a good King. He does not take away the high places, baits the North into battle, then loses. (2 Kings 14:1-14) (2 Chronicles 25:1-24) Jehoahaz dies in the North and is succeeded by Jeroboam II. In the South, Amaziah is killed and his sixteen-year-old son Azariah takes over for him. (2 Kings 14:15-22). Jeroboam II reigns for 41 years in the North. He is not a good king, but he does have military victories that recapture all the land which had been taken from the North. After 41 years on the throne he dies and is succeeded by his son Zechariah. (2 Kings 14:23-29) In the South, Azariah reigned for fifty-two years. He was generally a good King, but did not completely abolish idol worship. He contracts the disease called leprosy and has to live in a different house. He finally dies and his son Jotham takes over. (2 Kings 15:1-7) (2 Chronicles 25:25-28) In the North, there is a rapid succession of Kings that were all not good. Zechariah was in place six months. He was assassinated by Shallum, who was in place one month and was assassinated by Menahem who was particularly evil in reign and was assassinated by Pekahiah who was King to two years. (2 Kings 15:8-31)
- That guy named Azariah is also known as Uzziah. It is the same guy. So the board is not wrong, and neither were the notes! (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzziah>) We'll call him Uzziah from now on.
- Uzziah was sixteen when he became King and was King for 52 years. He was a good King and by the way was a contemporary of the Prophet Zechariah who instructed him in the ways of the Lord. He was also successful in war, rebuilt cities and irrigation systems in the countryside. He had a very large army, and his fame spread through many lands. (2 Chronicles 26:1-15)
- As long as he feared God, he experienced this great success. But like so many people, he became prideful in himself and that led to his downfall. Contrast 2 Chronicles 26:5 and 2 Chronicles 26:16.
- Even David had warned of the consequences of pride. (Proverbs 16:18)
- Uzziah went into the temple and burned incense for God which only the priests were supposed to do. As a result, he got leprosy and had to live out his days banned from just about everything. His son Jotham has to take over for him. (2 Chronicles 26:16-23)
- We worship God as he has told us to. Remember that God has severe penalties for those who do not follow his true instructions. Don't forget Cain's unpleasing sacrifice for which he was punished (Genesis 4), or Aaron's sons Hophni and Phineas who offered strange fire in the temple and were killed (1 Samuel 2-4). God is spirit and we must do our best to worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)
- Still in the south, Jotham reigns for 16 years. He is a good King and is successful because he "walks steadfastly before the Lord." (2 Chronicles 27:6) He dies and is succeeded by his son Ahaz. (2 Chronicles 27) (2 Kings 15: 32-38)
- Ahaz is not a good king. He even sacrifices his own children (as was the custom of those who worshipped Molech who was one of the Gods of Baal). (2 Chronicles 28:1-4)
- Ahaz forms an alliance with a King in Assyria and ends up emulating their Gods and even has his people build an exact replica of an altar he sees while visiting them. (2 Kings 16)

- Because God is so upset with Ahaz, the south is conquered first by Syria and then by Israel (the northern kingdom) who carries off their wealth and a lot of their people. (2 Chronicles 28:5-8)
- A prophet named Oded in the North tells people that they have already forsaken God and not to make it worse by bringing back these people who had forsaken God too. Some of the elders are on his side and so the people take care of those people they have taken and then return them to the South. (2 Chronicles 28:9-15)
- Ahaz does a lot of things to make God even more mad, and even when he is in trouble he doubles down by worshipping his false gods even harder (his rationale being, “well, they helped my enemies so they should help me too”). He finally dies and is succeeded by his son Hezekiah. (2 Chronicles 28:16-26)

Questions

1. What is another name for Uzziah?
2. Name three things Uzziah did that were good.
3. How long did Uzziah reign?
4. Who taught Uzziah about God?
5. Why did Uzziah experience such success?
6. What led to Uzziah’s downfall?
7. What did Uzziah end up doing and why was that so bad?
8. How are we to worship God?
9. Is Uzziah’s son Jotham a good king? Why?
10. What really bad thing did Ahaz do?
11. Who was Oded?
12. What did Oded say?
13. Did the people listen to Oded?
14. Who is Ahaz and was he good or bad?