

Pride Cometh Before Leprosy

2 Kings 15:1-7 (with 2 Chronicles 26)

1. Ruled with _____ Distinction (v. 1-7)
 - a. Right in Yahweh's eyes _____ his father
 - i. _____ places remained
 - ii. People still _____ on the high places
 - b. Highlight of reign → struck with _____
2. Enjoyed _____ Success (2 Ch 26:5-15)
 - a. _____ success – _____ Yahweh!
 - i. In the days of _____
 - ii. From instruction in the _____ of God
 - iii. ____ made him prosper while he sought Him
 - b. _____ success
 - i. Against Philistines, Arabians, Ammonites ...
 - ii. _____ Jerusalem
 - iii. Developed _____ areas
 - iv. _____ the military
 - v. Equipped military with traditional and _____ weaponry
3. Encountered the _____ of God (2 Ch 26:16-23)
 - a. "He grew _____ to his destruction."
 - i. He crossed the line against his _____
 - ii. He refused to _____ to God's warning
 1. Through _____ the high priest
 2. Through ____ priests taking a stand
 - b. "The _____ had struck him."
 - i. Punishment for his _____
 - ii. _____ and coregency of Jotham
 - iii. Even separation in _____!

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud. Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

Proverbs 16:18-20

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

“The greatest of men are not only subject to the common calamities, but also to the common infirmities, of human nature; and, if they be guilty of any heinous sin, they lie as open as the meanest to the most grievous strokes of divine vengeance. (2.) God smote him with this leprosy, to chastise him for his presumptuous invasion of the priests' office. If great men be proud men, some way or other God will humble them, and make them know he is both above them and against them, for he resisteth the proud. (3.) That he was a leper *to the day of his death*. Though we have reason to think he repented and the sin was pardoned, yet, for warning to others, he was continued under this mark of God's displeasure as long as he lived, and perhaps it was for the good of his soul that he was so.”

(Matthew Henry, *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, 17th-18th Century)

Notes for Further Study

1. Read Ezekiel 28:11-19. This lament over the king of Tyre obviously becomes about more than an earthly ruler. It appears to be about Satan.
 - a. What do you learn about Satan and pride here?
 - b. What dangers of pride abide in your own life?
2. Compare Uzziah to his father Amaziah and to his grandfather Joash (2 Chronicles 23-26).
 - a. In what ways did they all three do good things?
 - b. In what ways did they all fail?
 - c. Who are your spiritual advisors? Do you listen?
 - d. Are you “finishing well” unlike these kings?