

Characters In The Making

“Uzziah: The Leprous King”

(2 Chronicles 26:1-23)

- Introduction:
1. Epitaphs can range from the whimsical to thought provoking.
 2. Epitaphs are chiseled testimonies of summarized lives.
 3. As we enter the cemetery of Old Testament characters, we come across the grave of a man who was King of Israel.
 4. There is no great pyramid built as a memorial, but a small grave marker.
 5. Instead of an eloquent eulogy chiseled in stone, we read only these words etched on his marker — “He is a leper.”

I. Uzziah As A Youth

- A. (2 Chronicles 26:1-3).
- B. Uzziah was born into position and power.
- C. He was a descendant of Rehoboam.
- D. When he was just 16 years old, he became King in Israel
- E. Uzziah’s father served the Lord, but not wholly (2 Chronicles 25:2).
- F. But Uzziah got off to a great start (2 Chronicles 26:4-5).

II. Uzziah As A Powerful King

- A. (2 Chronicles 26:6-15).
- B. Politically — He triumphed over his enemies.
- C. Militarily — He was organized, prepared, and inventive.
- D. Personally — His fame spread over the world.

III. Uzziah As A Rebel

- A. (2 Chronicles 26:16-18).
- B. Uzziah believed his own press clippings and became full of pride.
- C. He used his position to by-pass or ignore God’s law.

IV. Uzziah As A Leper

- A. (2 Chronicles 26:19-23).
- B. He was isolated from the people.
- C. He was buried with the epitaph, “He is a leper.”

V. Practical Lessons

- A. Contemplate what words might be an appropriate epitaph on your grave marker (Heb. 11).
- B. Familiarity can breed disrespect (Isaiah 6:1-8; Exodus 3:1-5; Judges 13:22).
- C. One can begin well, but ended poorly (Galatians 6:9; 2 Timothy 4:10; Revelation 2:10).
- D. Success can be just as difficult to handle as failure (1 Timothy 6:17-19; Proverbs 16:18).
- E. There were dangers in living in a “miraculous age,” but there are also dangers in living in a “non-miraculous age?”

- Conclusion:
1. Learn from the mistakes of Uzziah, and live in such a way that your epitaph would reflect your faithful relationship with God.