

2 Chronicles 26 — “The Power of Pride to Take You Down in Humiliating Shame: The Reign of King Uzziah”**Introduction:**

❖ *How do you recognize a HUMBLE man? He's marked by his enthrallment with God & his diminishing of self.*

“God sees fit that we should taste of that cup of which his **Son** drank so deep, that we might feel a little what sin is, and what his Son's love was. But our comfort is that Christ drank the dregs of the cup for us, and will succor us, so that our spirits may not utterly fail under that little taste of his displeasure which we may feel. He became not only a man but a curse, a man of sorrows, for us. He was broken that we should not be broken; he was troubled, that we should not be desperately troubled; he became a curse, that we should not be accursed. Whatever may be wished for in an all sufficient comforter is all to be found in Christ.”

— Richard Sibbes (1577-1635)

Background to 2 Chron 26

- Tonight we come to the 3rd part of a Trilogy. We could call it the Trilogy of Those who TURN away from God. They start well but end bad [**1. Joash**, 24:20; **2. Amaziah**, 25:16; and now **3. Uzziah**, 26:16].
- We might summarize 2 Chronicles 26 (on Uzziah): the prosperity, the pride, & the plummet of Uzziah.

THESIS — We'll study 2 Chron 26 together & we'll embrace **3 factors that we must understand to guard from the heart-sin of PRIDE.**

I. UNDERSTAND GOD'S GRACE! (1-15)

Note the simple summary v.5b - “God prospered him”

A. God's equipping of a man (1-5)

B. God's prospering of a man (6-15)

II. UNDERSTAND PRIDE’S ROOT (16)

Pride: the sin in the heart that shifts confidence FROM GOD to SELF.
The great evil of **pride** is that it seeks to UN-god God.

4 ways that PRIDE is described here...

1. The **SITUATION** of his pride (16a)
2. The **SOURCE** of his pride (16b)
3. The **SUPREMACY** of his pride (16c)
4. The **SHAME** of his pride (16d)

Consider the prophet **Obadiah** —

III. UNDERSTAND SIN’S CALAMITY (17-23)

*Pride leads to downfall (Prov 11.2).
The pride of man will be humbled (Isa 2.17)*

Mark this -- we cannot judge *how* God is to be worshiped! We don't know better than God!

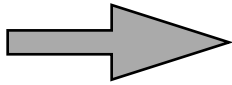
- We **can't** reinvent or reshape *HOW* God is to be worshiped. He's clearly laid it forth in Scripture. As New Testament believers, God has commanded us to preach, to sing, to pray, to fellowship, to evangelize, to guard sound doctrine, to praise our Triune God.
- GOD made his law very clear as to WHAT his worship was to be like
- We are NOT at liberty to devise new forms of worship that are NOT in Scripture.
- God has commanded us to preach, to sing, to pray, to fellowship, to evangelize, to guard sound doctrine.
- ***UZZIAH'S GREAT SIN WAS THE ARROGANCE OF THINKING THAT HE KNEW BETTER THAN GOD.
- His pride was typical of many leaders.
- He thought his genius and ingenuity enabled them to reform the church/people of God more into his liking.

1. Sin makes you stupid (17-20a)
2. Sin brings God's judgment (20b)

3. Sin has destructive consequences (21-23)

“For My hand made all these things,
Thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD.

“But to this one I will look,
To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”
— Isaiah 66:2



4 profoundly important lessons for us on how to NOT BECOMING PROUD OF HEART.

- ✓**WALK** in the Scriptures
- ✓**WORSHIP** the Sovereign God
- ✓**WALLOW** in divine grace
- ✓**WELCOME** loving reproof

SCRIPTURES ON PERSEVERING TILL THE END (from Hebrews)

- ✓Heb 3:14 – we must **hold fast** the beginning of our assurance firm until the end
- ✓Heb 4.1 – don’t **come short** of the promise of entering HIS rest
- ✓Heb 4:11 - let us be **diligent** to enter that rest, so that no one will fall...
- ✓Heb 6.11 - and we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the **full assurance** of hope until the end ... so that you will NOT be sluggish...
- ✓Heb 12:15 - see to it that no one **comes short** of the grace of God...
- ✓Heb 10:36 – for you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Ultimately, how do we *NOT* become proud & lifted up in our hearts?

Most preeminently & gloriously: **ZOOM IN ON CHRIST!**

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich,
yet for your sake He became poor,
so that you through His poverty might become rich.”
— 2 Corinthians 8:9

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;

BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tow'r:
Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

“As when things are cold we bring them to the fire to heat and melt, so bring we our cold hearts to the fire of the love of Christ; consider we of our sins against Christ, and of Christ's love towards us; dwell upon this meditation. Think what great love Christ hath showed unto us, and how little we have deserved, and this will make our hearts to melt, and be as pliable as wax before the sun.” —*Richard Sibbes*

“Where Christ's Spirit is, it will bring men from their altitudes and excellencies, and make them to stoop to serve the church, and account it an honor to be an instrument to do good.” —*Richard Sibbes*