

## *Learning from a Tragic Fall*

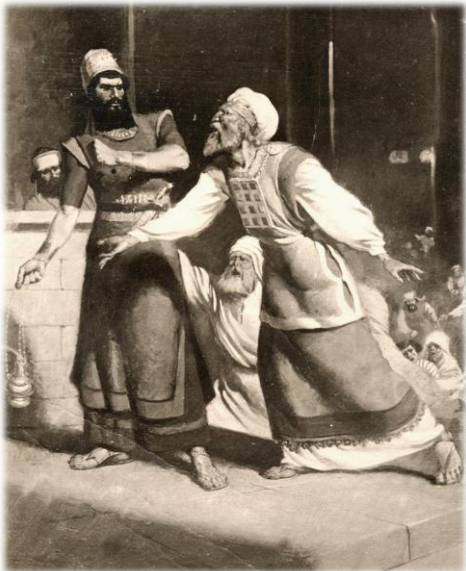
### **II Kings 14:21-15:7**

#### ***Jeroboam's successful but evil reign in the North (14:21-29)***

- As with Jehoahaz and Jehoash, God enables evil Jeroboam II to have even more undeserved military success, as predicted by Jonah (vs. 25). His long, glorious rule expands the kingdom to Davidic proportions.
- Amos and Hosea speak out, but to no avail so judgment day is closing.

#### ***Uzziah's successful and good reign in the South (15:1-7)***

- Like Jeroboam, Uzziah is easily near the top as far as leadership capabilities go. As with Jeroboam, God helps him (II Chron. 26:5,7,15), and he pushes Judah's borders to Davidic proportions in the south as well.
- Glowing terms are used in detailing Uzziah's many building projects, military improvements, and agricultural achievements ("loved the soil"). His fame (*name* 2x) and ability recalls David / Solomon's days.
- Pride = Uzziah's fall. Why would he do this and ignore Num. 16:40?
- The outbreak of leprosy seems mostly tied to his rage at the priests, which may have saved their lives. He handles reproof badly, just as his father and grandfather were furious when reproofed, 24:21, 25:16.
- Tragic irony = by seeking a greater role (and a forbidden one) in the temple, he is now totally "cut off from the house of the Lord."



If we look at the tragic fall of Uzziah and his father and grandfather, it's not hard to spot some similarities. What should we do and beware of so that we avoid our own spiritual tragedy? Consider Ps. 1:1a, Heb. 3:13, 10:24,25, Prov. 12:1a, 27:5,6.

*Tragedy is a tool for the living to gain wisdom, not a guide by which to live.*

--R. Kennedy