

We find the name Jehovah Jireh back in Gen 22

When Abraham was about to show his obedience to God by offering his son as a burnt offering –

But before he could finish the offering, the Angel of the Lord stopped Abraham and when Abraham looked up, he saw a ram that was stuck in a thicket.

Abraham names the place “Jehovah-Jireh” because of God’s gracious provision of a substitute for Isaac.

Jehovah Jireh is not the Lord has provided but a promise that the Lord will provide.

And that is exactly what happened at Calvary where God did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all.

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let’s pray...

[2Ki 15:1-38 NKJV] 1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel,

Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king.

So chapter 15 begins with a new King in Judah –

Here in 2 Kings he goes by the name of Azariah

In 2 Chronicles – he goes by the name of Uzziah.

So, he is a king with two names.

Some theologians have suggested that Azariah might have been his birth name, while Uzziah was his official name.

Others suggest that that the author of 2 Chronicles uses Uzziah so that we would not be confused with the name of the chief priest during that time whose name was also Azariah.

The name Azariah means “the Lord helps” and the name Uzziah means “My strength is the Lord” and as we will see – both name bear witness to how the Lord worked in the life of this king.

2 He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name [was] Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

You might remember from our study last week that the people of Judah turned on their king – King Amaziah, after he suffered an embarrassing defeat in a war that he instigated.

So the people have Amaziah killed and make Uzziah king –

He reigned 52 years – that is the second longest reign of any of the kings of Judah.

Only Manasseh’s reign - who we will cover in a few weeks is longer.

3 And he did [what was] **right in the sight of the LORD**, according to all that his father Amaziah had done, 4 except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. 5 Then the LORD **struck the king**, so that he was a leper until the day of his death; so he dwelt in an isolated house. And Jotham the king's son [was] over the [royal] house, judging the people of the land. 6 Now the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 7 So Azariah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

So a couple of observations –

- Uzziah was a good king – he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.
- He didn't take down the high places where the people worshipped God – even though they were only supposed to worship God in the temple in Jerusalem.
- God struck him with leprosy – we will see why in a minute.
- So because he was a leper and according to the Law, he was required to live in isolation, therefore - there was a period in his reign where there was a co-regency in Judah meaning that Uzziah, along with his son Jotham ruled over the nation.

So, if we only read 2 Kings 15, we would come to the conclusion that Uzziah was a good king and God struck him with leprosy with no given reason why.

Turn with me to 2 Chronicles 26 –

Here in 2 Chronicles 26, we are first told everything that God did through Uzziah –

I want you to first look at verse 5,

[2Ch 26:5 NKJV] 5 He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

So from verses 6-15, we read about the many great ways that God made him prosper.

God gave him victory over the Philistines.

God gave him the wisdom to rebuild his military strength.

God gave him wisdom to invent and develop new technology militarily but also agriculturally.

And as a result, his fame spread far and wide and the strength of Judah's army became secure.

This is when Uzziah fell in to trouble!

[2Ch 26:16-19 NKJV] 16 But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to [his] destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the

temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD--valiant men. 18 And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "[It is] not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You [shall have] no honor from the LORD God." 19 Then Uzziah became furious; and he [had] a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen examples of kings who did right in the sight of the Lord, but after great victories, they turned from trusting in the Lord to the worshipping of idols.

Uzziah didn't turn from God to idols.

He went in the other direction.

He took it upon himself to worship God, as he wanted, rather than the way God had prescribed.

Only the priest were allowed in the Holy Place – God had warned His people – only the priests were allowed to enter.

But Uzziah became so confident in himself that he thought he was above the rules that applied to others.

Church, God can only be worshiped the way He has provided.

We cannot come to God our way, we must come His way, or we cannot come at all.

We do not devise our own way to God – we follow His, or we do not come to Him at all

Now, the great joy is that God HAS MADE A WAY FOR US TO COME TO HIM

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.”

The only Way to heaven, the way to the Father, is through the Son - any other way is a dead end!

Notice that instead of humbling himself when he was confronted by the priests, Uzziah became angry and God struck him with leprosy.

This leprosy was an immediate judgment from God, not just for his sin of usurping the place of the priest, but for his rejection of the priests' rebuke

If Uzziah had come to his senses and repented of his pride,

No doubt this judgment would not have come upon him.

It was the maintaining of his pride and his refusal to repent that led to leprosy.

And because of this, he lived the rest of his life in isolation.

Uzziah was a great king - here was a man who had done great things for the nation, greatly strengthening it and building it up.

He would be greatly missed.

He had brought great stability to the people, and now that he was gone, there was uncertainty in Judah –

Turn with me to Isaiah 6 -

[Isa 6:1 NKJV] 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His [robe] filled the temple.

In this time of uncertainty, God gives Isaiah a vision.

That God is still on the throne. One who is wiser and greater than any earthy king.

Let's turn back to 2 Kings 15

We are now going to shift to kings of Israel.

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. 9 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 10 Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck and killed him in front of the people;

and he reigned in his place. 11 Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, indeed they [are] written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 12 This [was] the word of the LORD which **He spoke to Jehu**, saying, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth [generation]." And so it was.

Back in chapter 10, God had promised Jehu that four generations of his descendants were going to rule Israel.

Remember, Jehu was the one that was anointed king of Israel by Elisha's servant and God used him to bring judgment upon the house of Ahab.

Zechariah is the last of Jehu's descendants that ruled for 86 years.

Just like God promised.

And beginning with Zechariah we see six kings whose reign was short lived in Israel because they were all killed by their successor.

13 Shallum the son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria. 14 For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from **Tirzah, came to Samaria, and struck Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him; and he reigned in his place. 15 Now the rest of the acts of Shallum, and the conspiracy which he led, indeed they [are] written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 16 Then from Tirzah, Menahem attacked Tiphseh, all who [were] there, and its territory. Because they did not**

surrender, therefore he attacked [it]. All the women there who were with child he ripped open.

Shallum reigns for one month and he is killed by Manahem –

Tirzah was originally the capitol of the Northern Kingdom before it was moved to Samaria.

The people there did not want to recognize Manahem as their king – so we see how he responded.

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi became king over Israel, [and reigned] ten years in Samaria. 18 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 19 Pul king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave Pul **a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his control. 20 And Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land. 21 Now the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?**

So Manahem reigns in Israel and storm clouds are building as Assyria is threatening to come against Israel.

Remember, the Assyrians were the ones that God commanded Jonah to go to.

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria.

So after a few years, the Assyrians come after Israel.

And instead of the nation repenting before the Lord, King Manahem pays off the King of Assyria.

He taxes the people of Israel and therefore the Assyrians hold back on their invasion and allow Manahem to remain as king.

In the mind of King Manahem and the nation of Israel – everything turned out ok.

The Assyrians left them alone – they can continue to live the way they were living.

But it was during this time, the God sent a prophet to Israel by the name of Hosea to tell them that this was short lived – that judgment was indeed just around the corner.

[Hos 8:5 NKJV] 5 Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them--How long until they attain to innocence?

He even references the agreement the payoff that was made to the Assyrians

[Hos 12:1 NKJV] 1 "Ephraim feeds on the wind, And pursues the east wind; He daily increases lies and desolation. Also they make a covenant with the Assyrians, And oil is carried to Egypt.

Making an agreement with Assyria was as good as eating wind.

[Hos 13:16 NKJV] 16 Samaria is held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They shall fall by the sword, Their infants shall be dashed in pieces, And their women with child ripped open.

And church, as we will in two weeks, it happened just as Hosea said it would.

(Ga 6:7–8 NKJV) —7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

It may be that those who live godless lives look like they're making out okay, but it's only short lived.

22 So Menahem rested with his fathers. Then Pekahiah his son reigned in his place. 23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, [and reigned] two years. 24 And (guess what?) he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 25 Then Pekah the son of Remaliah, an officer of his, conspired against him and killed him in

Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house, along with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of Gilead. He killed him and reigned in his place. 26 Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, indeed they [are] written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Once again, we see another king of Israel – and their reign is categorized as they did evil in the sight of the Lord.

I want to talk about this because one of the things that I hear often from people is they bring up these past examples of their fathers and grandfathers and great grand fathers and they attribute their way of life as a byproduct of false teaching going around called a family curse.

Maybe looking back at your family tree we see that many of those before us did evil in the sight of the Lord.

And we start to think that – therefore -

I'm a drunk because my dad was a drunk

I'm a womanizer because my dad was a womanizer

I gossip because my mom was a gossip

I'm a worrier because my parents were a worrier

I have anger issues because it's in my blood

Church, Jesus Christ dying on the cross broke every curse.

When a person is born again, the curse is broken – the curse of sin – a curse that we all share apart from Jesus Christ.

It is the separation of a person from God because of their own sinful decisions.

We are not judged because the sin of our fathers and grandfathers – we are judged by our own sin.

And when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior – it is immediately broken.

And we are a new creation in Christ.

Old things have passed away.

Behold all things have become new.

Yes, there is still a battle between the spirit and the flesh –

Because we live in a fallen world and we have an enemy that wants to take us down.

But we have everything we need to pursue righteousness and live a holy life by the presence of the Holy Spirit living in each one of us.

And we do this by faith.

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, [and reigned] twenty years. 28 And he did

evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and **he carried them captive to Assyria.**

So now what we are see is that Assyrians have come back – and now they are starting to take over some of the northern cities of Israel.

One by one.

Remember, they put their trust in the ransom they gave the king of Assyria instead of on God.

And the Assyrians began to take people back to Assyria where they would assimilate them.

And 1 Chronicles 5 tells us that the first tribes that were taken were the Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of Mannaseh. The tribes that refused to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land because they wanted to settle in the east side of the Jordan because it was better fro grazing.

30 Then Hoshea the son of Elah led a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck and killed him; so he reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. 31 Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all

that he did, indeed they [are] written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Hoshea will be the last king to rule Israel before the Assyrians come and take them all away. He will be the one to fall to the Assyrians when we get to chapter 17

32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, began to reign. 33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name [was] Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. 34 And he did [what was] right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. 35 However the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD. 36 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 37 In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah. 38 So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

So now we shift back to Judah.

Jotham becomes king – he was the one that was co-ruler while his father had leprosy.

He is another good king – he did was right in the sight of the Lord.

Turn to 2 Chron 27

The author of 2 Chronicles (Ezra or Nehemiah?) tells us that – (2) he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done
(although he did not enter the temple of the LORD)

Jotham followed his dad as far as following the Lord, but when it got to his dad's pride trip, he didn't follow him!

And then look at verse 6

(2 Ch 27:6 NKJV) So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.

prepared - to fix, make ready, order

ways - road, journey, manner

These are the same word that Solomon used in Proverbs 4:26

(Pr 4:26 NKJV) Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.

One of the things that Jotham did was he built the Upper Gate

That was the access from the palace to the temple.

Through this gate, he had communion with God and he also understood that he was a king and not a priest – unlike his father.

By the way, Jotham is the only one of all the Hebrew kings that God doesn't record anything against his character.

What does the name Jotham mean?

Yahweh is perfect.

And despite Jotham being a godly example, we will see his son Ahaz proved to be a wicked king. We will see that next week. Lord willing.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

