

Matthew 1: 9

(9) **Uzziah** was the father of **Jotham**, **Jotham** the father of **Ahaz**, and **Ahaz** the father of **Hezekiah**.

A reminder of the groupings of Matthew's genealogies

1. From Abraham to David 14 men - (vs. 2-6).
2. From David to the Babylonian exile – (vs. 6-11).
3. From the Babylonian exile to Christ (vs. 12-16).

HEZEKIAH:

2 Kings 18:1-13

(1) Now it came about in the third year of Hoshea, the son of Elah king of Israel (Northern Kingdom) that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah became king.

Northern Kingdom (Israel / apostate) – Capitol Samaria
Southern Kingdom (Judah) – Capitol Jerusalem

- Began his reign at age 25.
- Reigned for 29 years.

(2) He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.

(3) He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that **his father** David had done.

Remember “**his father**” means he is a descendent of David, not his literal son.

- Philistia is located to the West of Judah.
- Uzziah establishes military garrisons in Philistia to maintain peace & order.
- A system of economic inter-dependence existed between Judahites, the Ammonites, Philistines, and Meunites (tribal peoples of the Negev).
- When Uzziah conquered the Philistines and Meunites, he upset the balance of trade forcing the Ammonites to pay tribute to him.
- Judah's staple economy was an agricultural economy – see slide Geography of Israel.

(4) **He removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah**. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.

The children of Israel, during their wilderness wanderings, accused God & Moses of taking them out of Egypt to kill them. With lack of food God was providing an opportunity to apply faith. Instead of relying on the Lord they accused

Moses. God's discipline was a brood of poisonous vipers throughout the camp. – Moses, despite all their complaining, intercedes on their behalf to the Lord. The solution was for Moses to take a bronze snake and attach it to a standard. For those who looked upon the serpent (analogous to faith in God's solution) they were healed. The

solution was in obeying what God told them to do!

(See the account in Numbers 21)

By Hezekiah's time in History the people had organized a “snake cult” and burned incense to Moses bronze serpent. Hezekiah smashes this serpent into pieces.

(5) He trusted [BATACH – a confident trust or faith] in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him (note the results of this trust) there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him.

POD – The Christian who places his confidence in the Lord will be strengthened by the Lord.

(6) For he clung [DABAQ – to cling to or stay with someone, habitual action] to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Remember Uzziah and the leprosy (2 Chron. 26:19) that ended his reign due to his arrogance.
- That leprosy provided the humility required for him to carry on.
- The leprosy never left him and his reign was over yet he was buried in the “field of the kings”. A special provision for him.
- Other kings that were apostate we not buried there.

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- You may find yourself someday at the pinnacle of your spiritual life and the Lord has greatly blessed you.
 - You’re in “prosperityville”. This is the most vulnerable time in your life as a believer.
 - Suffering that comes into your life may be discipline as in the case of Uzziah, or the Lord may have designed the suffering to enforce the genuine humility required continue your spiritual advance.
 - Apart from that suffering, you would become arrogant.
 - God designs these things providentially to enforce humility in your life – so you can continue that advance toward maturity and to have the invisible impact He designed you to have as a believer.
 - Therefore, all suffering is good suffering in the spiritual life.

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- Many times suffering is an opportunity to be an **ambassador** for your Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - To witness to others who see a hope in you that they do not see in another.
 - You may lose malleability to that suffering. You may want to resist it. Don’t!
 - In the midst of suffering remember 1 Sam 17:47 “...the battle is the Lord’s.”
 - This does not mean to ignore the doctor if you are sick – it does mean to carry your spiritual life with you to the doctor’s office. After all someone there may have the need for what you have – a Savior!

(7) And the LORD was with him; wherever he went he prospered. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

POD – The believer who trusts in the Lord will possess the confidence required to do the right thing at the right time.

You may be nervous about witnessing or about teaching or about being a missionary – you may be nervous about opening or running a business, about a job interview. If you are praying and putting your ways before the Lord where does your confidence come from when you are led to one of these situations? From the Lord! If He leads you there, He’ll give you what is necessary to accomplish the job. You have to step out in faith.

(8) He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

Hezekiah’s trust in the Lord resulted in military victory.

*Doesn’t your trust result in **spiritual victory** when placed in the Lord?*

*God promises that when we walk in a trusting manner, we will experience spiritual victory!
(Galatians 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”)*

(9) Now in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it (722 BC).

(10) At the end of three years they captured it; in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was captured.

(11) Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away into exile (taken captive) to Assyria, and put them in Halah and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,

(12) **because they** (the Northern Kingdom) **did not obey the voice of the LORD their God** (disobedience results in Divine discipline), but transgressed His covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded; they would neither listen nor do it.

If you know what God wants you to do and you don’t do it - - expect Divine discipline.

That discipline is designed to drive you back into fellowship with the Lord.

- There is a difference between KNOWING the will of God and DOING the will of God.
 - Most Christian's today do not know the will of God – they have reduced the will of God to a system of emotion and ecstasies!
 - Many churches today are more concerned with attracting people. To do this people's desires are catered to yet they are not being fed the spiritual food required to know and execute God's plan.
 - People are more interested in worshipping their emotions than in God!
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- If Christians are going to start doing the will of God today they need to listen to the teaching of the word God – too many are being evangelized over and over again each Sunday. A sad commentary on what should be done in the lives of Christians.
 - All too often Christians lead a superficial spiritual life!
 - Believers cannot live their spiritual life apart from fellowship with God (1 John 1:9).

(13) Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them.

- Sennacherib is smart in his approach to battle.
- He wipes out any resistance to his advances by conquering all the outlying cities to Jerusalem – he sets up his own command post at Lachish.
- He then plans to cut off the head = Jerusalem (national leadership).
- Sennacherib's army now has freedom of maneuver in the land to lay siege to objective Jerusalem.

All of these actions were meant to instill an attitude of fear and panic in Hezekiah - mental attitude sins that would distract him from trusting in the power of his God to deliver.

Class Slides



All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.