

21.18 Uzziah (Azariah)¹⁰ ☺ (2 Kings 14:21, 22; 15:1–7; 2 Chronicles 26:1–23)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Print the 10 flashcards of Uzziah’s accomplishments found at the end of the lesson.
- Incense to burn in a metal container (a picture is also at the end of the lesson)

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *high places*: God said to worship in Jerusalem, but people worshiped closer to home on “high places.” Only one king had removed them; that was Asa. However, they were quickly rebuilt, and kings that followed did not remove them (until Hezekiah).
- *fear of God*: knowing God can bless or judge and that He can do anything; therefore, respecting Him even to the point of being afraid of Him
- *spoils/to be spoiled*: the money, goods, animals, and everything taken from the enemy when battles are won. The losing country is *spoiled*. We do not mean a *spoiled* child who gets everything [s]he wants.
- *people allowed in the Temple*: Only the priests entered the Temple building itself. All others, even kings, could come only to the outside court.
- *altar of incense*: the altar located in front of the veil in the Temple on which incense was burned (See picture of temple layout found below.)
- *leprosy*: disease of the skin that made it necessary for the leper to live all by himself; otherwise, someone else might catch the disease.

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Chronicles 26:1 And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. 2 He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers. 3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. 4 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 5 He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.

6 He went out and made war against the Philistines and broke through the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod, and he built cities in the territory of Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. 7 God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabians who lived in Gurbaal and against the Meunites. 8 The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread even to the border of Egypt, for he became very strong. 9 Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate and at the Valley Gate and at the Angle, and fortified them. 10 And he built towers in the wilderness and cut out many cisterns, for he had large herds, both in the Shephelah and in the plain, and he had farmers and vinedressers in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil. 11 Moreover, Uzziah had an army of soldiers, fit for war, in divisions according to the numbers in the muster made by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer, under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king’s commanders. 12 The whole number of the heads of fathers’ houses of mighty men of valor was 2,600. 13 Under their command was an army of 307,500, who could make war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. 14 And Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging. 15 In Jerusalem he made machines, invented by skillful men, to be

on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

16 But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the Lord his God and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. 17 But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the Lord who were men of valor, 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. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the Lord God.” 19 Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the Lord, by the altar of incense. 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the Lord had struck him. 21 And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the Lord. And Jotham his son was over the king’s household, governing the people of the land.

22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz wrote. 23 And Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the burial field that belonged to the kings, for they said, “He is a leper.” And Jotham his son reigned in his place.

Introduction/Review:

Last week we left Judah in a desolate state. King Jehoash of Israel had beaten Judah in war; had captured Amaziah, king of Judah, but ✓let him go back to Jerusalem; had broken down part of Jerusalem’s wall; and had taken the treasures of God’s Temple and the king’s house. Fifteen years later, King Amaziah died, being murdered by those who thought he was not a good king.

In Judah all of the kings were descendants of King David. Some were good kings; some were bad. Some started out good and became bad. In other words, the good ones worshiped and served the Lord God; the bad ones worshiped other gods and led the people to worship other gods. Notice, a king might have done some bad things, but the basic test to prove whether he was good or bad was whether he worshiped God or idols.

Here is a chart of the kings of Judah so far. [Teacher, show chart of good, bad, and not-so-good kings of Judah found at the end of this lesson. See explanation on chart.]

Story:

Uzziah is king

Now that Amaziah was dead, who would be Judah’s next king? His son, named Uzziah. He’s also called *Azariah*, but we will stick with *Uzziah*. He was only sixteen years old—as old as _____ [someone the students know who is 16 years old]. What kind of a king would Uzziah be?

The Bible states that Uzziah “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done” (2 Chronicles 26:4). What does that tell you? [He worshiped God.] In fact, Uzziah worshiped only God and never worshiped idols as his father had done.

What about the high places? He did not remove them.

Sixteen years of age is very young to be king. Joash, who became king at age seven had Jehoida to help him, Uzziah also had a counselor named Zechariah. ✓Some people think he was Jehoiada the priest’s grandson, the son of the Zechariah whom King Joash had slain. The Bible states that Zechariah “instructed Uzziah in the fear of God.” What is the *fear of God*? It is knowing that God can bless or judge and that He can do anything; therefore, it is respecting Him even to the point of being afraid of Him. I love to read what the Bible says about Uzziah: “He set himself to seek God” (2 Chronicles 26:5). That’s a good thing for us to do—decide to seek God. Would Uzziah seek God all his life, or would he seek God only while Zechariah

lived?

Uzziah seeks God

We know that God blesses those who seek Him. The Bible states, “As long as Uzziah sought the Lord, God made him prosper.” Perhaps Jerusalem’s wall had already been rebuilt, but perhaps Uzziah had a lot of work to do in order to bring Judah back to the glory it had had before being defeated and spoiled just a few years earlier.¹

Let me tell you about some of the ways that God made Uzziah prosper. [Teacher, show charts found below.]

- (1) He recaptured from the Edomites [locate Edom] and rebuilt the city of Elath [locate]. Judah once again had this city for its own. From here ships could go to get gold from Ophir [locate].
- (2) He warred against the Philistines [locate country and the following cities] and broke down the walls of three cities—Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. Uzziah built his own cities in Philistine territory.
- (3) “God helped him” (2 Chronicles 26:7) “against the Arabs” near Edom [✓*Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*].
- (4) The Ammonites paid him tribute money.
- (5) He was well-known all the way to Egypt “for he became very strong” (2 Chronicles 26:8).
- (6) He built towers on three corners of Jerusalem’s city wall and fortified them—supplied them with soldiers and weapons.
- (7) He built towers ✓to protect towns in the wilderness—away from his army.
- (8) He dug lots and lots of cisterns (large holes in the ground to store water). He needed this stored water because not enough water fell during the summer to water his farmlands, vineyards, and large herds.
- (9) He assembled an army of 307,500 men who could “make war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy” (2 Chronicles 26:13).
- (10) He made for his army shields, spears, helmets, armor, bows, sling-shot stones. In Jerusalem he had skillful men make special kinds of engines to shoot arrows and great stones from the towers he had built.

Uzziah is proud

Oh, King Uzziah was famous! King Uzziah was strong! And—[Teacher, change your tone of voice from excited to sad] King Uzziah was proud. Proud of all these wonderful things he had accomplished. Proud that he was so famous. Proud that he was so strong! The Bible states Uzziah “was marvelously helped.” Helped by Whom? God, of course. “He was marvelously helped, *till he was strong*. But *when he was strong*, he grew proud, to his destruction” (2 Chronicles 26:15, 16).

This is how his destruction came: Proud Uzziah thought he could go right into the Temple and offer incense on the altar of incense.² No, he wasn’t a priest, but he thought he was more important than a priest—he was king! “But Azariah the priest went in after him with eighty priests of the Lord who were men of valor (strong soldiers); and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, ‘It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priest, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the Lord God’” (2 Chronicles 26:17, 18).

Here’s another king being rebuked by God’s people. Will he repent in his own soul, or will he hurt the priests? King Uzziah . . . became very angry and might have hurt the priests, but as he became angry, leprosy broke out on his forehead. He could feel it, and the alarmed priests could see it—horrible leprosy in his forehead!

Quickly, the priests pushed him out of the Temple. Actually, King Uzziah himself was willing and eager to get out because he knew the Lord had smitten him. From that day until he died, he had to live by himself

and could no longer rule over Judah. His son Jotham ruled for him.

¹The period since the war with Israel ✓ might have been close to a total of 27 years if, as some say, Uzziah didn't become king until 12 years after Amaziah's death (unknown source; likely John Gill).

²“The law runs expressly against all strangers that came nigh ([Num 3 10; 18 7](#)), that is, all that were not priests. Korah and his accomplices, though Levites, paid dearly for offering to burn incense, which was the work of the priests only, [Num 16 35](#)” ([2 Chronicles 26 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
“The incense of our prayers must be by faith put into the hands of our Lord Jesus, the great high priest of our profession, else we cannot expect it should be accepted by God, [Rev 8 3](#)” ([2 Chronicles 26 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).
- When God blesses you, be careful not to get proud. “Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).
- When God leads you to work for Him, do what God asks you to do, no matter how hard or strange it may seem to you.

Activities:

- Play dough: Build a wall and tear it down like the cities of the Philistines. Make spears, helmets, shields.
- Snack: Fresh bread of some kind (for a pleasant small)
- Burn/smell incense.
- Count to 80, the number of priests who went after Uzziah in the Temple.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the letters, U, Z,Z,I,A,H, on card stock, and cut out. A student who answers a question correctly may place a random letter in a pocket chart. When all the questions are answered, the students may unscramble the letters.)
 1. How old was Uzziah when he became king of Judah? [Sixteen.]
 2. We mentioned ten accomplishments of Uzziah. Name one of them. [(1)Warred against the Philistines; (2) broke through the walls of Philistine cities; (3) built cities near the Philistines; (4) made the Ammonites pay tribute to him; (5) was famous as far as Egypt; (6) built towers in Jerusalem; (7) built towers in the wilderness; (8) cut out many cisterns; (9) assembled a large army; (10) prepared weapons and war machines.]
 3. When Uzziah knew he was strong, what did his attitude change? [He became proud.]
 4. What did Uzziah in his pride think he could do? [Burn incense on the altar of incense in the Temple.]
 5. Who went in after Uzziah when he entered the Temple? [Azariah the priest and eighty other priests.]
 6. Why did Uzziah willingly rush out of the Temple? [Because he had leprosy.]

Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV)

(A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](#). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more.

Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.)

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).

Handwork:

- Print and color the picture found at [\(836\) Pinterest](#). Spray the picture with cologne.

high places

fear of God

spoils/to be spoiled

people in the Temple

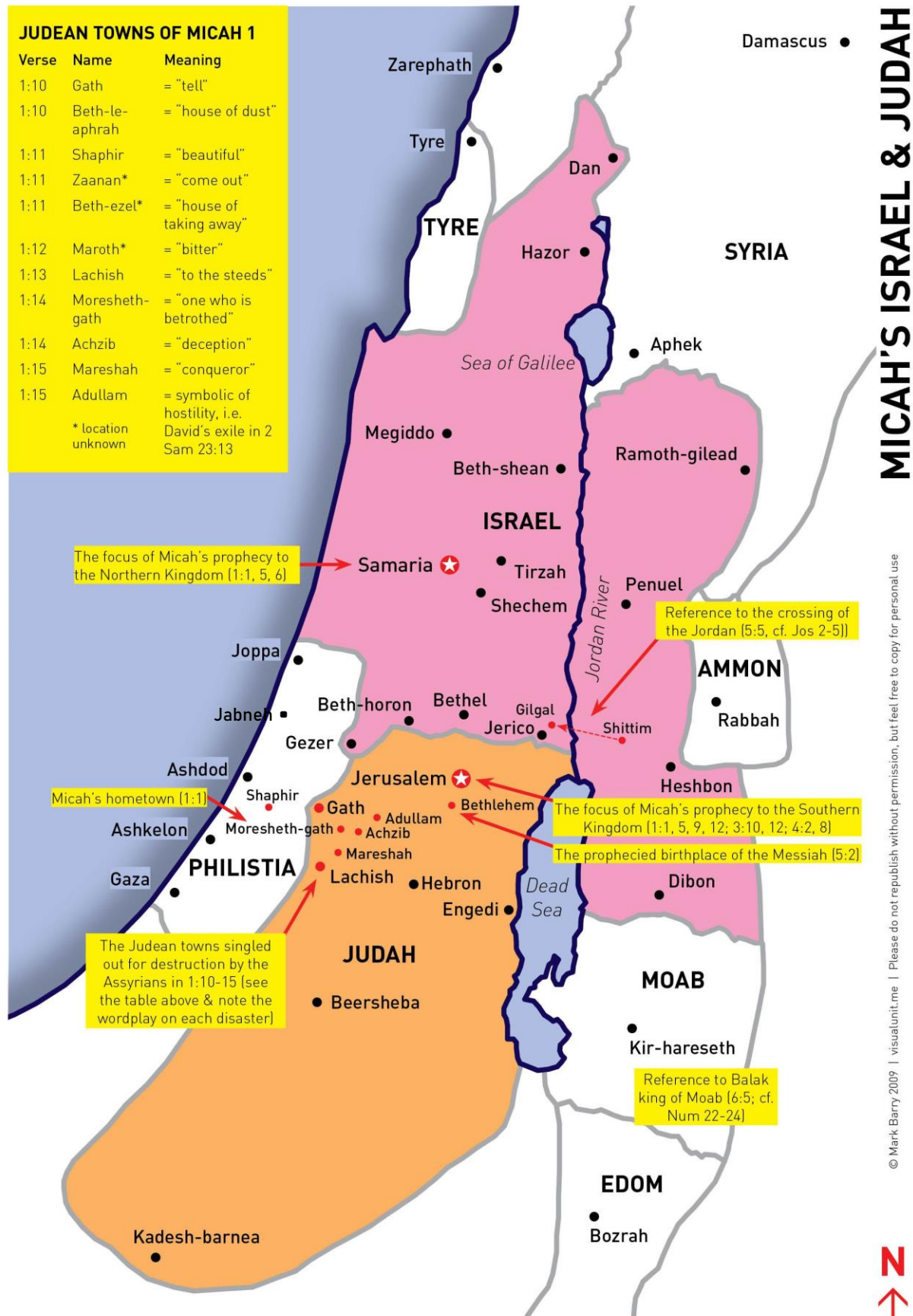
altar of incense

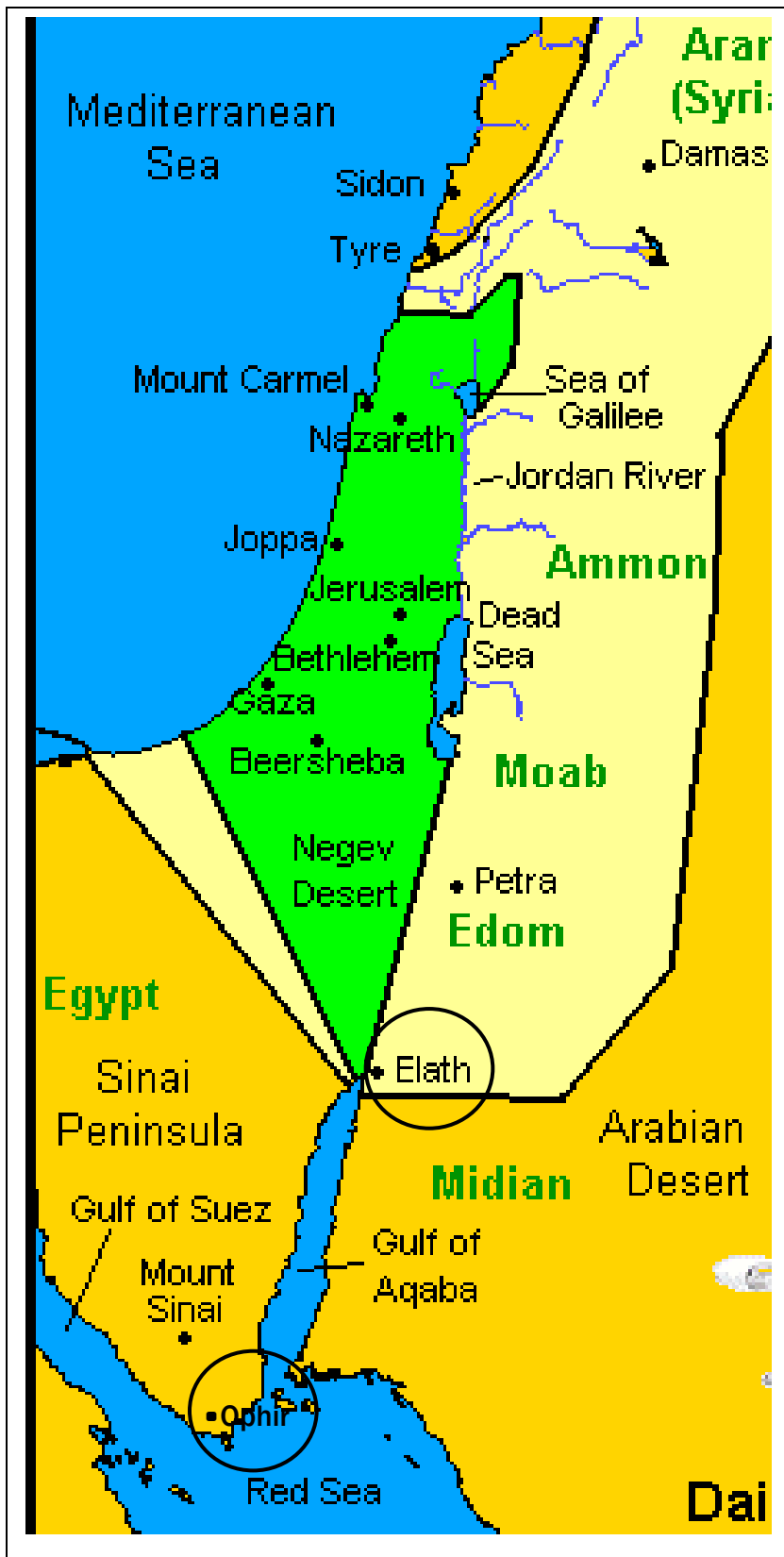
leprosy

JUDEAN TOWNS OF MICAH 1










Verse	Name	Meaning
1:10	Gath	= "tell"
1:10	Beth-le-aphrah	= "house of dust"
1:11	Shaphir	= "beautiful"
1:11	Zaanan*	= "come out"
1:11	Beth-ezel*	= "house of taking away"
1:12	Maroth*	= "bitter"
1:13	Lachish	= "to the steeds"
1:14	Moresheth-gath	= "one who is betrothed"
1:14	Achzib	= "deception"
1:15	Mareshah	= "conqueror"
1:15	Adullam	= symbolic of hostility, i.e. David's exile in 2 Sam 23:13

* location unknown





Kings of Judah

Rehoboam		
Abijah		
Asa	*	
Jehoshaphat	*	
Jehoram		
Ahaziah		
Athaliah		
Joash	-	
Amaziah	-	

Key: Frowning face: bad king/queen—led people to idolatry
Happy face: good king—led people to worship the Lord
Blah face: started out good but became evil, leading the people to idolatry

1.

He recaptured from the Edomites and rebuilt the city of Elath.



2.

He broke down the walls
of three Philistine cities.
He built his own cities in
Philistia.



3.

God helped him against the Arabs near Edom.



4.

The Ammonites paid him
money.



5.

He was well-known all the
way to Egypt.



6.

He built towers on three corners of Jerusalem's city wall and fortified them.



7.

He built towers in the
wilderness.



8.

He dug many cisterns to
water his
farmlands, vineyards, and
large herds.



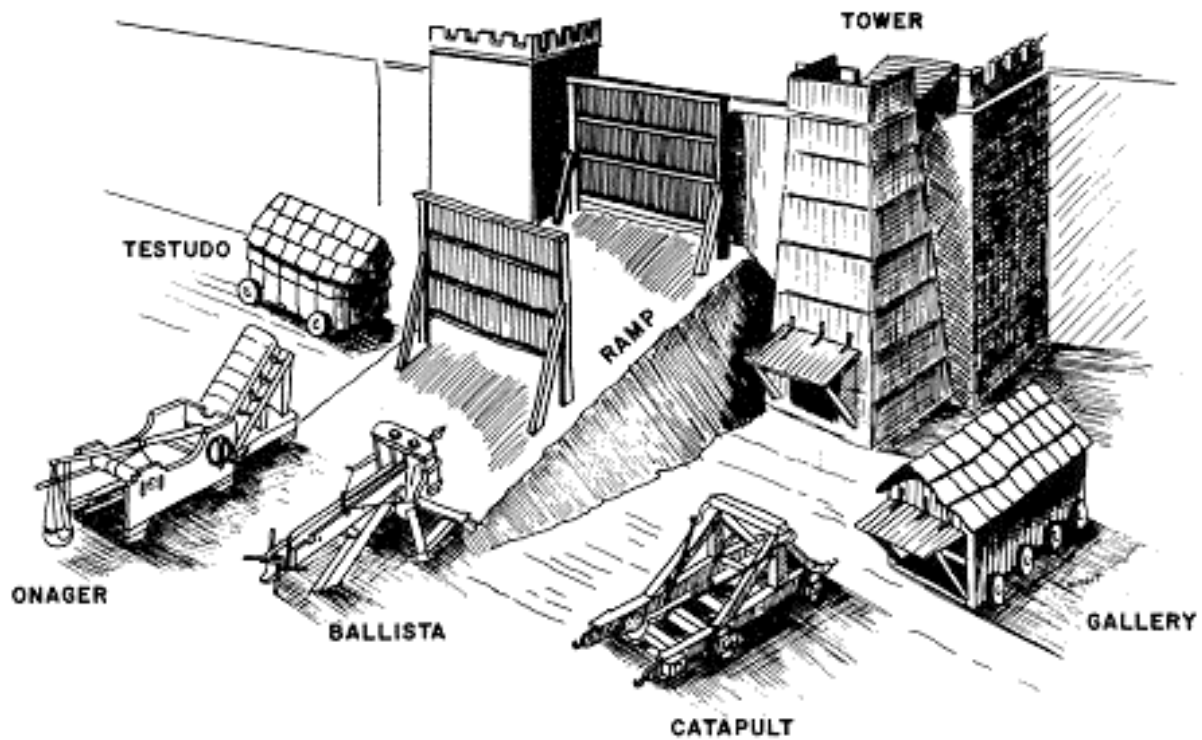
9.

He assembled a large,
powerful army.



10.

He made weapons and war engines for his army.









Basin



Lampstand



Altar



**Incense
Altar**



Ark



**Table of Show
Bread**



Court

Holy Place

**Most Holy
Place**

King Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah

- He was 16 when he became the king
- He obeyed God and had a strong kingdom
- He built towers and fortified the cities
- He loved the land and built wells for water
- He got leprosy on his forehead and had to co-reign with his son in an isolated house
- King for 52 years in Jerusalem



www.biblefunforkids.com

U

Z

Z

I

A

H