

OLD TESTAMENT
READINGS &
DEVOTIONALS

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VOLUME 8

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1

Reading: 2 Kings 14:21-22, 2 Kings 15:1-7, 2 Chronicles 26

Here would I meditate over the wretched, ruined, and undone state of *Uzziah* [also known as *Azariah* in 2 Kings 15]. A leper to his grave. Cast out and forsaken both of God and man. Loathsome in the sight of both; and living and dying universally unpitied, unhelped, and unreclaimed. And are there any *Uzziah's* of the present hour? Do any count the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and do despite to the Spirit of grace! how desperately lost to a real sense of their own state by nature? How totally unconscious of the infinitely precious value of the blood of Jesus; how wretchedly mistaken as to their own filth, corruption, lusts, and universal depravity. What strangers to themselves, to Jesus, to the necessity of the work of God upon the soul, and the absolute expediency of being washed from the leprosy of sin in the blood of Christ! blessed, thrice blessed God, who in mercy led me to see the preciousness of

salvation, and as graciously led me to seek it in the way the Lord himself appointed. Never, blessed Jesus, may my soul invade thy office, but rejoice to come under the censer of thy righteousness. Oh! give me to see that I am indeed sheltered from the wrath to come, from the leprosy of this life, and the miseries of another, being found in thee and under thy precious all-atoning sacrifice, whereby thou hast for ever done away the sin and uncleanness of thy people. (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: 1 Kings-Esther, 530–531)

2

Reading: 2 Kings 15:32-38, 2 Chronicles 27

In the quick succession of kings which this part of the word of God brings forward to view, it is profitable to pause and consider, how transient those characters were in their power and influence, which during their government, no doubt, made a mighty bustle in life, and moved up and down as beings highly important. But alas! what is all human greatness but as a bubble on the mighty waters! precious Jesus! what would the whole earth, with all its greatest monarchies and men be, void of an interest in thee and thy great salvation! How bounded within a short space their lives! how insignificant their existence! how trifling and childish their pursuits! Without thee, thou dear Redeemer, no hopes beyond the grave, no prospect of immortality; no redemption from sin; no resource from the fears of death, nor from the alarms of conscience! wishing to live after death, and yet dreading the hereafter; hoping there might

be a place of rest; but in the midst full of a thousand forebodings concerning it! Oh! thou glorious, gracious, precious Jesus! it is thou which hast *brought life and immortality to light by thy gospel*. And by thy great undertaking thou hast not only opened to thy people clear and distinct views of the everlasting mansions of the blessed, but by thy finished redemption hast purchased eternal happiness for them, and art gone before to take possession of it in their name. Now, Lord, we hail thy glorious person, and adore thee for thy finished work. All thy people are by thee made kings and priests to God and the Father. *We have received a kingdom by thee, and in thee, which cannot be moved*. Oh! for grace whereby we may serve thee acceptably in this life *with reverence and godly fear*;¹ until we come to reign with thee in the life that is to come in glory forever. (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: 1 Kings-Esther, 532–533)

Footnote:

1. Hebrews 12:28.

3

Reading: Micah 1

Some may not easily discover the Lord Jesus in this scripture. But in the poverty and misery of our fallen nature, God the Holy Spirit is not infrequently preaching Christ. For Reader! suffer me to ask, by what more persuasive and powerful means can the Lord Jesus be recommended to our hearts, than by shewing us our misery and ruin out of Christ? When you and I are taught feelingly and experimentally [experientially] what sin is; and that in us, that is, in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing; surely it must endear Christ, and induce a sense of our want of him. Oh! how much will a soul long for Jesus, when led to see that without him we are lost forever. Hence the Prophet's vision is not confined to *Samaria* and *Jerusalem*; all people, yea, all the earth are called upon to the charge. The Lord grant, Reader, that you and I, in the Prophet's call, may feel interested, so as to impress the necessity and suitableness of the Lord Jesus, and that the Holy Spirit may bring him home to our hearts, and form him there, *the hope of glory!*¹ (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: Ezekiel-Malachi, 419)

Footnote:

1. Colossians 1:27.

4

Reading: Micah 2-3

“One who breaks open the way will advance before them ...” Micah 2:13

Inasmuch as Jesus has gone before us,¹ things remain not as they would have been had he never passed that way. He has *conquered every foe* that obstructed the way.² Cheer up now thou faint-hearted warrior. Not only has Christ travelled the road, but he has slain thine enemies. Dost thou dread sin? He has nailed it to his cross. Dost thou fear death? He has been the death of Death. Art thou afraid of hell? He has barred it against the advent of any of his children; they shall never see the gulf of perdition. Whatever foes may be before the Christian, they are all overcome. There are lions, but their teeth are broken; there are serpents, but their fangs are extracted; there are rivers, but they are bridged or fordable; there are flames, but we wear that matchless garment which renders us invulnerable to fire. The sword that has been forged against us is already blunted; the instruments of war which the enemy is preparing have already lost their point. God has taken away in the person of Christ all the power that anything can have to hurt us. Well then,

the army may safely march on, and you may go joyously along your journey, for all your enemies are conquered beforehand. What shall you do but march on to take the prey? They are beaten, they are vanquished; all you have to do is to divide the spoil. You shall, it is true, often engage in combat; but your fight shall be with a vanquished foe. His head is broken; he may attempt to injure you, but his strength shall not be sufficient for his malicious design. Your victory shall be easy, and your treasure shall be beyond all count.

*“Proclaim aloud the Savior’s fame,
Who bears the Breaker’s wond’rous name;
Sweet name; and it becomes him well,
Who breaks down earth, sin, death, and hell.”
(Spurgeon, Morning, Aug 24)*

Footnotes:

1. Hebrews 12:2.
2. John 16:33; 1 John 4:4; Revelation 3:21.

5

Reading: Micah 4

“In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth.” Micah 4:6 (AKJV)

Mark, my soul, the graciousness of thy God! Jesus is not only blessing his people when they follow him, but he will bless them by recovering them when they halt. And of all the tokens of grace, that is the most endearing which is manifested over the aboundings of transgression. We have a passage similar to this in the writings of *Isaiah*, in which the Lord complains of the baseness of his people: “But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. Thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, and thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.” One might suppose, after such a charge, and such instances of ingratitude, that the next account would be, that the Lord had given up Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches: but no! what saith the Lord? “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions, for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”¹ How doubly refreshing is grace, when it comes over all our unworthiness, rebellions, and sins! See, my soul! how the Lord graciously overrules thine haltings, and makes a

falling-time to become a rising-time, to his praise, and to thy comfort! Lord! confirm thy word unto thy servant, wherein thou hast caused me to hope! Do thou, Lord, in this day, thine own day, the gospel day, fulfil thy promise, and let all our haltings be healed, and “give us to run the way of thy commandments, when thou hast set our souls at liberty.” (Hawker, *The Poor Man's Evening Portion*, Dec 14)

Footnote:

1. Isaiah 43:22-28.