

## 2 Chronicles 27 – Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

**2 Chronicles 27** -- 1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. 2 And 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). But still the people acted corruptly.

- The chapter begins by introducing us to Jotham, who as Uzziah's son would be the last of nine good kings in Judah's history.
- I have to confess that I've been looking forward to this chapter for a number of reasons, chief of which is the study of the kings.
- While we did an in-depth study back in the book of first and second Kings, I want another opportunity to revisit it again tonight.

- First, I think it would be good to point out a couple of things concerning Jotham before we embark on a study of all nine kings.
- Notice in verse two where we're told that Jotham did not sin as his father Uzziah had prior, by forcing his way into the temple.
- The reason I point this out is because it speaks to the importance of sons and daughters not repeating the folly of their parents.

Charles Spurgeon – “Yet, he did not enter the temple of the LORD. “He regarded his father's sin rather as a beacon to warn him away from that rock on which Uzziah's life had been wrecked.” ...It is a great, mercy for us, when we have seen others sin, if we use their shipwrecks as beacons for ourselves. What fascination should there be in sin?”

- The second thing I would like to point out is that in spite of the reign of this godly king, we're told the people still acted corruptly.
- I point this out because it answers an important question as it relates to whether or not the church is to blame for societies ills.
- More specifically, are sleeping churches and their silent pulpits to blame for things like legalized abortion, same-sex marriage?

- To me, Jotham answers this question for us, as an example to us, that the world will wax more evil in spite of godly Christians.
- I think of Noah, who was godly, while the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every intent was only evil continually.
- Replete throughout scripture we see examples of the righteous living godly lives, and as such are never blamed for the evil.

- Please know that I am in no way am suggesting that the watchman, or prophets are not responsible for sounding the warning.
- What I am suggesting is that watchman, prophets, et al, are not to blame for what the world does in response to the righteous.
- I find it rather interesting that the response to the righteousness of even the prophet Isaiah during this time was that of evil.

Isaiah 6:1-9 (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. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.” 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.” 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” 9 And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’”

It wasn't only Isaiah there were other prophets like Hosea and Micah as one commentator noted, “Though Isaiah, Hosea, Micah, and other holy prophets then living showed them their sin. To this day, people will not leave their old evil customs, though never so much preached down.”

Of Uzziah and the kings of Israel that reigned at this time, another commentator wrote, “Below the surface prosperity that was enjoyed by both kingdoms at this time, the contemporary preaching of Hosea and Amos indicates the presence of serious moral and spiritual decay.”

3 He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively on the wall of Ophel. 4 Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers. 5 He also fought with the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. And the people of Ammon gave him in that year one hundred talents of silver, ten thousand kors of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. The people of Ammon paid this to him in the second and third years also. 6 So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God. 7 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. 8 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. 9 So Jotham rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

- The chapter ends with all that Jotham did during his sixteen-year reign as king in which he built extensively and became mighty.
- In verse seven we're told the reason as to why he became mighty was because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.
- This simple verse summing up the secret to Jotham's success is the main reason I want to revisit the study of the good kings.

- I hope you'll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time together in God's Word tonight as we look at all nine of these kings.
- This because of the nine good kings, only Jotham, here in 2 Chronicles 27, did not sin at the end of his life as the others had.
- What follows is an overview of a study I did from many years back when I first heard this teaching from pastor Damian Kyle.

KING	WHY	HOW THEY FELL	LESSON
David	David was probably the greatest King Israel ever had. He was a passionate man after God's own heart, (Acts 13:22). He is listed in the hall of fame of faith in Hebrews 11.	David didn't control his passions and fell in His area of greatest strength. He didn't guard his heart.	Control your passions before they control you.
Asa	One of Judah's best kings, (1 Kings 15:9-15). He relied upon the Lord and defeated the Ethiopian army against seemingly impossible odds.	He relied on and bribed Ben-hadad the king of Aram who severed his alliance with King Baasha in order to defeat this rival army of the northern kingdom. He didn't rely on the Lord.	Rely on the Lord not your own savvy.
Jehoshaphat	He was bold like his father "Asa" and was victorious militarily. He created an educational and legal infrastructure for the nation of Israel.	In his enterprising cleverness, he got mixed up in a friendship with an evil King name Ahab, and even let his son Jehoram marry his daughter Athaliah. He didn't annihilate idolatry and failed in a business partnership with Ahaziah. Interesting how these people are attracted to him because they see the blessing of the Lord on His life. They get him alone and manipulate him and he went against the check the Lord gave him in his spirit.	Obey that check in your spirit. Manipulating people will be attracted to you.
Joash	He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord while the priest Jehoiada (and his advisor) was alive. He accomplished much as it relates to repairing the Temple.	Joash listened to Jehoida's advice, but Jehoida had the only voice in his life, so much so that when he died, Joash didn't know what to do. He listened to bad counsel and it led to him down the wrong path and into evil. He was ultimately killed by his own officials and will go down as a king who fell into a trap of acting on bad counsel, because "he listened to them".	Don't listen to ungodly counsel. There's safety in the multitude of counselors.
Amaziah	Was victorious over the Edomites. Followed his father Joash's good example.	Because Amaziah became arrogant, he meddled to his own hurt. He was even told by an evil king to stay out of his business and stay at home because he was asking for trouble. This ultimately cost him dearly and led to his downfall.	Don't meddle. Mind your own business.
Uzziah	He was a warrior and a skillful builder, leader, and organizer. He became very powerful and successful.	Uzziah becomes proud and arrogantly promotes himself to the place of a priest. The priests whom he usurped confront him. Uzziah in his self-promoting ambition resists them and is struck with leprosy.	Don't be self-promoting and push down doors.
Hezekiah	Hezekiah initiated reform and revival. He had an intimate relationship with the Lord and copied several chapters of Solomon's Proverbs (25:1).	Hezekiah shows off his wealth to the messengers from Babylon showing little concern for the future because now Babylon would conquer them. He even implies that all the wealth was because of his own merit as if to take credit for that which the Lord had done for him.	Give God all the credit, don't boast thinking it's you.
Josiah	Josiah turned to the LORD with all his heart soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses.	Josiah was overly zealous in his battling against King Neco of Egypt. He wouldn't listen to what God was saying through King Neco and went against him in opposition to the Lord. This mistake costs him his life.	Selfish ambition deafens us to God's voice.
Jotham	He was a powerful King who did extensive building. He was the only one who did not sin against the Lord or make any costly mistakes at the end of his life as king.	Jotham's ways were always before the Lord, such that he wouldn't do anything his way, rather he would only to what he knew was God's way and God's will. He was able to do because he stayed in the Word and it lit his way showing him which way God wanted him to do or not do something. He was a doer not just a hearer of God's Word.	Present your plans and ways to the Lord but let God have His own way, as I'm the clay.

G. Campbell Morgan - "While there was no definite national reform during his reign, he seems to have gone quietly forward along true lines, and his strength is attributed to the fact that he ordered his ways before Jehovah his God."

Charles Spurgeon - "Jotham must have been a man of prayer. He could not have prepared his ways thus anywhere except at the mercy-seat. He must have been in the habit of taking his daily troubles to his God, and of seeking guidance from him in his daily difficulties, and of blessing him for his daily mercies. He must have been in constant communion with his God, or else he could not have ordered his ways aright before him."

F.B. Meyer - "I do not remember ever meeting one who really walked with God who did not make orderliness one of the first principles of life.... They are the habits of the soul that walks before God, and which is accustomed to thing of Him as seeing in secret, and considering all our ways."