

Jotham

Jotham was the son of Uzziah, and twelfth king of Judah, [2 Kings 15:32:33].

Jotham began his reign as co-regent when his father became a leper as a result of his rebellion against God, [2 Chronicles 26:16-21].

2 Chronicles 27:1-6 [New King James] *“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. 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. He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively on the wall of Ophel. Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers. 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. So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.”*

Much good can be said about Jotham and his reign as king of Judah, but he failed in a most important area.

2 Kings 15:34-35 [New King James] *“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. 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.”*

Jotham did not destroy the high places and the idols that were erected in them. This was clearly violating the first commandment, [Exodus 20:3].

Like Jotham we may live basically good lives, yet miss what is most important.

A life of doing good works is not enough if we make the crucial mistake of not following the Creator God with our whole life.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

It is out of gratitude for what God has done for us through Jesus Christ that we should offer our whole lives to God.

The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning whole life, our body, mind and human spirit, [Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27].

Any true Christian puts the Creator God first in all areas of their life.

2 Chronicles 27:7-8 [New King James] *“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. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.”*

Jotham was generally a good king, but his people became corrupt. Those who we seek to lead by a good personal example will not always follow that example, yet that should not affect the way we live to serve our Creator God.

2 Chronicles 27:9 [New King James] *“So Jotham rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.”*

Ahaz, Jotham's son, succeeded him as king of Judah.