

# **“He Prepared His Ways Before the LORD”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

## Introduction:

- A. 2Chron. 27; 2Kings 15:32-38
  1. Jotham means "Perfection of the Lord"
  2. Jerushah means "She that possesses the inheritance"
  3. Jotham was a co-regent with his father Uzziah from about 750 BC. He ascended to the throne 740 BC and ruled till 725 BC, 15 years.
  4. During this time Jotham learned to trust the Lord
- B. He learned from his father - 2Chron. 26
  1. To seek the Lord early in his reign - 2Chron. 26:3-5
  2. God's enemies are his enemies - 2Chron. 26:6-8
  3. To prepare his people for the battle - 2Chron. 26:9-15
  4. To obey the Lord - 2Chron. 6:16-23
    - a. Fustibalus - hand, staff, or traction trebuchet; an advancement on the sling that increased the weight and distance of the projectile

## **I. HOW DO I PREPARE MY WAYS BEFORE THE LORD?**

- A. Prayer - Psalm 5:3; Ex. 33:11; 1Thes. 5:7
  1. "Oh brother, pray; in spite of Satan, pray; spend hours in prayer; rather neglect friends than not pray; rather fast, and lose breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper - and sleep too - than not pray. We must not talk about prayer, we must pray in right earnest." (Andrew A. Bonar)
- B. Praise - Psalm 135:1-3; Heb. 13:15; James 5:13
  1. "The first element in worship is adoration. The Hebrews expressed this by their posture and not alone in their word. For they prostrated themselves before God. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. They did not come with an easy familiarity into the presence of God, but were aware of His greatness and majesty, and came with a sense of privilege to His house." (H. H. Rowley, "Worship in Ancient Israel" p. 257)
- C. Priority - Psalm 90:12; Matt. 8:18-22
  1. A godly man prefers grace before goods and wisdom before the world.
- D. Philosophy - 1Cor. 1:17, 2:1-5; Col. 2:8, 20-23
  1. "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe." (Albert Einstein)
  2. Philosophy is the branch of study that masquerades as a science, pretends to examine truth, and spectacularly falls short in both matters
- E. Profession - Gal. 2:20, 6:14
  1. "It's hard to be proud of being Jewish when your only religious experience was seeing the movie "Exodus." (Lynn Savitt)
  2. In a world where secularism has made faith appear irrelevant, and fashion has made professing faith seem unpopular, Christians have made walking by faith rare and uncommon

F. Passion - Phil. 3:7-14

1. "I wish that saints would cling to Christ half as earnestly as sinners cling to the devil. If we were as willing to suffer for God as some are willing to suffer for their lusts, what perseverance and zeal would be seen in Christians!" (Charles Spurgeon)

G. Patience - Luke 21:19; 2Thes. 1:3-10

1. "Patience is the companion of wisdom." (Augustine)
2. "You get a chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it."
3. When you feel like you have held on long enough, remember that God has been holding since before this world was made.

H. Pilgrimage - 1Peter 2:11-12; Heb. 11:13

Conclusion:

- A. We have examined three Old Testament kings who followed the Lord, but sowed the seeds of their undoing by holding on a weakness.
- B. There is a reason to consider them: Hell will be populated with Christians who did the same thing
  1. Our profession of faith must be who we are first and above all other roles in our lives
  2. Our love for God must be greater than our love for any other being
  3. Our lives must be dedicated in obedience to Him above and before all others, or we will be lost; anything less, and we are lost