

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 27

Jotham Reigns in Judah

Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, 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 eyes of the LORD according to all that his father Uzziah had done, except he did not enter the temple of the LORD. But the people still followed corrupt practices. 3 He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD and did much building on the wall of Ophel. 4 Moreover, he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and forts and towers on the wooded hills. 5 He fought with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed against them. And the Ammonites gave him that year 100 talents of silver, and 10,000 cors of wheat and 10,000 of barley. The Ammonites paid him the same amount in the second and the third years. 6 So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before the LORD his God. 7 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. 8 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. 9 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

Ch 27 Parallel account is found in 2Ki 15:32–38. The Chronicler does not report a war in which the Lord sent Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel against Judah (2Ki 15:37); conversely, Jotham's victory over the Ammonites (vv 5–6) is not recorded in 2Ki. (TLSB)

27:1 *sixteen years.* 750–735 B.C., including a co-regency with Uzziah (750–740). His reign also overlapped that of his successor Ahaz from 735 to 732. (CSB)

27:2 *did not enter the temple.* The Chronicler commends Jotham for not making the same error Uzziah did (26:16). (CSB)

corrupt practices. Appears to refer to the flourishing high places (2Ki 15:35). (CSB)

27:3–6 Unique to the Chronicler and an elaboration of his thesis that fidelity to God's commands brings blessing: in construction, military victory and prosperity—all “because he walked steadfastly before the LORD” (v. 6). Judah's relationship with the Ammonites held particular interest for the Chronicler. (CSB)

27:3–4 Building projects are characteristic of faithful kings. (TLSB)

27:3 *upper gate.* Gave access to the king's house from the temple (cf 23:20). (TLSB)

Ophel. Southern part of the temple hill. (TLSB)

27:4 *cities ... forts ... towers.* Defensive garrisons to guard the boundaries. Messengers and signal fires were used to communicate between garrisons. (TLSB)

27:5–6 Unique to 2Ch. (TLSB)

27:5 Ammonites. Jotham completely subjugated the Ammonites, who had already been defeated and made a tributary by his father (26:7–8). (TLSB)

second ... third years. Tribute was likely cut off by an Ammonite rebellion. (TLSB)

27:7 all his wars. See, e.g., 2Ki 15:37. (CSB)

No serious invasion from the north seems to have occurred during Jotham's lifetime. (TLSB)

Ch 27 Jotham orders his ways before the Lord and grows mighty as a result. He learns from both the good example and the bad example of his father, Uzziah. Learn to respect and emulate all that is good in your parents, for they are God's gift to you. Also seek to grow in the ways of your heavenly Father, who gives life everlasting in the might of His Son. • Order my ways, dear Father, that I may emulate Your goodness. Amen. (TLSB)