

# SECOND CHRONICLES

## Chapter 27

### *Jotham King of Judah*

Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok. <sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the LORD. The people, however, continued their corrupt practices. <sup>3</sup> Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the temple of the LORD and did extensive work on the wall at the hill of Ophel. <sup>4</sup> He built towns in the Judean hills and forts and towers in the wooded areas. <sup>5</sup> Jotham made war on the king of the Ammonites and conquered them. That year the Ammonites paid him a hundred talents <sup>a</sup> of silver, ten thousand cors <sup>b</sup> of wheat and ten thousand cors of barley. The Ammonites brought him the same amount also in the second and third years. <sup>6</sup> Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the LORD his God. <sup>7</sup> The other events in Jotham's reign, including all his wars and the other things he did, are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. <sup>8</sup> He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. <sup>9</sup> Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Ahaz his son succeeded him as king.

**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)