

## 2 Kings 15

Jesus

- Focus back on Southern Kingdom

### I. Azariah/Uzziah Reigns in Judah [C.f. 2 Chron.26]

1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king. <sup>2</sup>He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And he did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done, <sup>4</sup>except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. <sup>5</sup>Then **the Lord struck the king, so that he was a leper until the day of his death; so he dwelt in an isolated house.** And Jotham the king's son *was* over the *royal* house, judging the people of the land. <sup>6</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? <sup>7</sup>So Azariah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then **Jotham his son reigned in his place.**

- **Azariah:** AKA Uzziah
- Began well. Continued well. Finished humiliated/defeated.

#### So? What Happened?

**1 Corinthians 10:12** ... let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

**2 Chronicles 26:1** [Read] [Parallel] Now all the people of Judah took **Uzziah**, who *was* **sixteen years old**, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. <sup>2</sup> He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

- King of Syria captured Elath from Judah 2 Kings 16:6. **Uzziah/Azariah restores it**

[cont.] <sup>3</sup> Uzziah *was* sixteen years old when he became king, and he **reigned fifty-two years** in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And he did *what was* **right in the sight of the Lord**, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. <sup>5</sup> He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the **visions of God**; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper. <sup>6</sup> Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities *around* Ashdod and among the **Philistines**. <sup>7</sup> God helped him against the Philistines, against the **Arabians** who lived in Gur Baal, and against the **Meunites**. <sup>8</sup> Also the **Ammonites** brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became **exceedingly strong**. <sup>9</sup> And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them. <sup>10</sup> Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; *he also had* farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for **he loved the soil**. <sup>11</sup> Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe

and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. <sup>12</sup> The total number of chief officers of the mighty men of valor was two thousand six hundred. <sup>13</sup> And under their authority was an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. <sup>14</sup> Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones. <sup>15</sup> And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones.

- **Azariah/Uzziah's accomplishments**

1. Reigned in Judah 52 Years
2. Did what was right in "sight of the Lord"
3. Sought God and men given visions by God for counsel

**v 5 ...as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper**

4. Victory over enemies all round: Philistines, Arabians, Meunites, Ammonites
5. Fame spread all the way to Egypt
6. Built towers...even in deserts/Dug wells for vast livestock
7. Became exceedingly strong [what we all hope for right?]
8. **Lover of the soil:** Built farms and vineyards
9. **Uzziah's Military Prowess...**

- Men sent out in companies led/directed by **both scribe/officer**
- Disciplined Military of 307,500 men led by 2600 Chief Officers

10. **Uzziah/Azariah takes care** to prepare his men for victory...

- Shields/Spears/Helmets/Armor
- Bows/slings
- **Made Military Devices?**

V15 ...invented by skillful men, to be on towers and corners, to shoot arrows/large stones.  
**Seems that Uzziah/Azariah had men invent the first catapults**

[2 Chron. 26 cont.] **15b...So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.**

v 5 ...as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper

**Helped Marvelously by God...Azariah means "The Lord has Helped"**

[cont.] <sup>16</sup> But **when he was strong** his heart was lifted up, to *his* destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

**BUT...When he was strong – his heart was lifted up – To his destruction**

Stepped across the line [transgressed]. Feared God all his life...till now

- Solomon had to learn the hard way w/regard to finishing well...

1. Prosperity unlike any other in Judah

2. Built Temple of God. Palace, gardens, aqueducts

**...But when Solomon was strong in his own eyes**

3. Transgressed with wives worshiping other gods
4. Kingdom was ripped from him and he was a mess

**Vanity of vanities...all is vanities. Life is the empty.**

Tried everything to find purpose of life; nothing kept back

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments**, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

- Solomon would know this first hand...

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

- **We can predict the fall of a man...**when he is haughty in spirit

**When Uzziah was strong in his own eyes his heart was lifted up to destruction**

1. **Transgressed:** Going beyond God's law. Stepping on the grass.
2. **Transgression?** Entering Temple to burn incense reserved only for priests

[2 Chron. 26 cont.] **...17** So **Azariah the priest** went in after him, and with him were **eighty priests** of the Lord—**valiant men**.<sup>18</sup> And they **withstood King Uzziah**, and said to him, "**It is not for you**, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You *shall have* no honor from the Lord God."

- **81 Priests** rush into the Temple of God/Valiant men
  1. Confront the King/Withstood King
  2. Rebuked the King/Passed judgment on the King

[cont.] 19 Then **Uzziah became furious**; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the incense altar.<sup>20</sup> And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the Lord had struck him.

**Uzziah/Azariah furious...True colors for all to see**  
**You can't tell me what to do...I'm Uzziah. Look at all I've done.**

- King attacks the priests with censer of fire
- Leprosy once within [sin of pride] now seen without all over his body

**Thrust him out of Temple...Uzziah conceded it was the Lord who struck him**

**We are safe in Humility/We are vulnerable in Pride**  
**Lesson? Keep your nose straight...God is God and we are not**

**Psalm 34:2** My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

- Humility leads to joy/Boasting in self leads to misery...

**Galatians 6:14** ...God forbid that I should boast except in the **cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

- We pray for God to **be our strength**. In humility is power

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things **through Christ who strengthens me**.

- To “**do life right**” we must decrease

**John 3:30** He must increase, but I must decrease. [Why?] 31 He who comes from above is **above all**

- Without Jesus we could do nothing of any eternal value...

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.”

When we think we are too strong/good looking/talented to fear God we are **lying to self**

**Galatians 6:3** ...if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

**Isaiah 14:14** [Satan’s sin: Pride] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

- **Self-deceived...**

**Revelation 3:17** [Lukewarm Church of Laodicea] Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

[2 Chron. 26 cont.] ...**21** King Uzziah was a **leper until the day of his death**. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord. Then Jotham his son was **over the king’s house**, judging the people of the land.

- **King Uzziah/Azariah:** Began great/Reigned long/Fell hard

**Leper till his death/Isolated from others:** Uzziah would never enter the Temple again

- Co-reigned with son Jotham for a time

[cont.] 22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote. <sup>23</sup> So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which *belonged* to the kings, for they said, “**He is a leper.**” Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

**Isaiah wrote of Uzziah v22**

**Isaiah 6:1** In the year **that King Uzziah** [Azariah] **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!" [End 2 Chron. 26]

**After the tragedy of his friend Uzziah's death...Isaiah saw the Lord  
Good guy gone bad. Sad. Do we want to be great or display greatness of God?**

### **Focus back to Northern Kingdom**

## **II. Zechariah Reigns in Israel**

- Jeroboam II dies/Zechariah his son takes his place in north

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Zechariah** the son of Jeroboam **reigned over Israel** in Samaria **six months**. 9 And he did **evil in the sight of the Lord**, as his fathers had done; he **did not depart** from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 10 Then **Shallum** the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and **struck and killed him in front of the people**; and he reigned in his place.

- **Zechariah King of Israel**
  1. Reigns only six months
  2. Did evil "in the sight of the Lord" /Did not depart: Calf worship in Dan/Bethel
  3. Murdered by Shallum
- **Remember**
  1. Unlike Judah: Kings in line of David and Messiah
  2. Throne of Israel repeatedly taken by the bravest and/or dumbest thug

Shallum conspires/kills Zechariah "**in front of the people**" and becomes king of Israel

11 Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 12 This was the word of the Lord which He spoke to **Jehu**, saying, "**Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.**" **And so it was.**

- Years before God told King Jehu his dynasty would last 4 generation **then end...**

**2 Kings 10:30** ... [The] Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the **throne of Israel to the fourth generation.**"

- **Zechariah**
  - Lit. "The Lord remembers" killed 752BC
  - Last of four generations of Jehu's dynasty

- Last of any effective kings of Israel

## V12...And so it was

### SUMMARY Zechariah Reigns in Israel

#### Israel now on cusp of cruel deportation to Assyria

Continued to do evil in the eyes of the Lord and not depart; i.e. Repent in spite of warning

**Hosea 1:4** ... For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an **end to the kingdom of the house of Israel**. 5 It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

- **Savage violence** marked Jehu's dynasty four generation previous

Jehu's dynasty ends with Zachariah **but the violence continues...and escalates**

"Within the next forty-three years, half a dozen "pseudo-kings" would reign in rapid succession, one murderer replacing another on the throne, as the nation tottered on the brink of anarchy." [Dilday]

- Shallum is one of these "pseudo-kings"

### III. Shallum Reigns in Israel

13 Shallum the son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned **a full month in Samaria**. 14 For **Menahem** the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, came to Samaria, and **struck Shallum** the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him; and [Menahem] reigned in his place. 15 Now the rest of the acts of Shallum, and the conspiracy which he led, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

- Murderer Shallum reigns **a month in Israel** before being murdered himself

**Matthew 26:52** [Jesus to Peter] "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will **perish by the sword**."

- **Violence begets violence:** No rule of law, no seeking God, utter confusion. Familiar?

**Romans 3:10** [Combines many OT verses] "There is **none righteous**, no, **not one**; 11 There is none who understands; There is **none who seeks after God**...16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;17 And the **way of peace they have not known**." 18 "There is **no fear of God before their eyes**."

#### This is the world Jesus left the glory of Heaven to Save

**John 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness **did not comprehend it**...10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world **did not know Him**...12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

- **Kingdom of Israel:** Exemplifies a world left to its own ways
- **Not evolution but devolution;** i.e. digression into violence, godlessness, destruction

**Continual reaping/sowing:** Menahem murders Shallum and becomes King of Israel

16 Then from Tirzah, Menahem attacked Tiphseh, all who were there, and its territory. Because they did not surrender, therefore he attacked it. All the women there who were with child **he ripped open.**

- **Ripped open pregnant woman:** Israel's brutal treatment enemies come back to bite

**Israel unravels:** We thought it would last forever [especially after prosperity of Jeroboam II]

#### IV. Menahem Reigns in Israel

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Menahem** the son of Gadi became **king over Israel**, and reigned **ten years** in Samaria. 18 And he did **evil in the sight of the Lord**; he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. .

- **King Menahem:** Reigned 10 Years in Israel/Did evil "in the sight of the Lord"

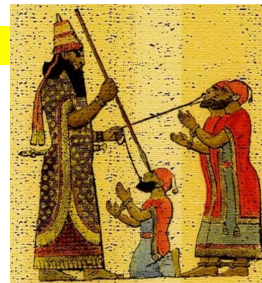
Calf worship continues/No Repentance/ Cruel treatment of enemies/Assyria gearing up  
**Where are the glory days of David and Solomon? One Kingdom of peace/godliness**

19 **Pul king of Assyria** came against the land; and **Menahem gave** Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his control. 20 And **Menahem exacted the money from Israel**, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria.

**Parties in Israel is over. Assyria is at the**

- Assyria

1. Bad dudes. Vicious
2. Reason Jonah did not want to see Assyria



**door.**

saved

- Menahem pays Assyria off with money confiscated from the people of Israel

Oppression of the poor as spoken of in **Amos** 4:1; 5:11,12; 8:4-6; **Micah** 2:2; 6:10-12.

**20b...** So the **king of Assyria turned back**, and did not stay there in the land. 21 Now the rest of the acts of **Menahem**, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 22 So Menahem rested with his fathers. Then Pekahiah his son reigned in his place

- **Does appeasement work? Yes. Kind of. No**

"An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last." [Churchill]

- Compromise with evil is never a permanent solution...

"[Churchill's rebuke of proposed compromise with Germany] ...do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip, the first foretaste **of a bitter cup** which will be offered to us year by year unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and [warlike] vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time."

**Israel's continued compromise will soon culminate in their demise  
Israel is finished...they just don't know it**

- Israel now paying tribute to Assyria
- Assyrian officials now in Israel as overseers

### **SUMMARY Menahem Reigns in Israel**

## **V. Pekahiah Reigns in Israel**

23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekahiah** the son of Menahem became king over **Israel** in Samaria, and reigned **two years**. 24 And he did **evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart** from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 25 Then Pekah the son of Remaliah, an **officer of his, conspired against him and killed him** in Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house, along with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of Gilead. **He killed him and reigned in his place.** 26 Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

- **Menahem's son Pekahiah reigns:** Unusual for Israel
- **Pekahiah:** Lit. "The Lord has opened his eyes"
  1. Reigned only 2 years
  2. Did evil "in the sight of the Lord"
  3. The Lord has closes his eyes... Murdered own bodyguard **Pekah**
- **Pekah now King of Israel**

## **VI. Pekah Reigns in Israel**

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekah** the son of Remaliah became **king over Israel** in Samaria, and reigned **twenty years**. 28 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

- Reigned 21 Years in Israel/ Did evil "in the sight of the Lord"

29 In the days of **Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came** and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor,



Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

### Guess whose back? Assyria

This time Assyrians take much of the population of Northern Kingdom to Assyria

- **King of Assyria:** Tiglath-Pileser
  - Refused to be paid off as Menahem was able to do
  - Carried away tribes of **Reuben, Gad, Half-tribe of Manasseh** [Num. 22]

**These 3 Tribes are never restored back to Israel** [until Millennial Kingdom]

- Israel left Egypt: Wandered for 40 years and about to enter the land..
- Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh decide to **settle** on east side of the Jordan.

Never crossed over. Never all in. Settled for less. First to be taken by enemy

**God wants all of us...compromise leaves us venerable**

- Old friends, old habits, old thoughts, old hangouts

**Proverbs 6:26** For by means of a harlot [compromise] A man is **reduced to a crust of bread**; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes **not be burned**? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet **not be seared**?

Israel's sin has caught up with them/God chooses Assyria as His instrument of Judgment

- Invasion/Capture/Torture/Deportations begin.
- Northern Kingdom withers: Now 30 miles wide and only forty miles long

30 Then **Hoshea the son of Elah** led a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and **struck and killed him**; so he reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. 31 Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

- **Pekah the murderer is murdered**

1. Pekah murdered Pekahiah [The one he was hired to protect] v25
2. Pekah also murdered his own brethren in the south

**2 Chronicles 28:6** ...Pekah ... killed **one hundred and twenty thousand** in Judah in one day, all valiant men, because **they had forsaken the Lord God** of their fathers.

- **Hypocrite:** Pekah did evil/did not depart. God don't dig hypocrites...
- Pekah killed by an old friend, Hoshea... v 30

**Josephus:** "Hoshea was 'a friend' of Pekah's" [Antiquities ix.13] .... But watch as he might, his very friend in whom he trusted became, in the ordering of God, his slayer; **so impossible it is for the wicked to escape their merited retribution.**" [Knapp]

- **NOTE:** Hoshea is the LAST King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

## Focus back on Southern Kingdom of Judah

### VII. Jotham Reigns in Judah

32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, **Jotham the son of Uzziah**, king of Judah, **began to reign**. 33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned **sixteen years** in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. 34 **And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord**; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

- **Jotham son of Uzziah/Azariah**

1. Father Uzziah began reigning at 16
2. Jotham began reigning at 25. Reigned 16 years
3. **Jotham:** Lit **"The Lord is Perfect"**

**Perfect/Complete:** Words that exemplify Jotham's life  
Did what was right in the sight of the Lord!!!

- **Kings of Israel** did/will do what is right "in the sight of the Lord"      **0 out of 19**
- **Kings of Judah** did/will do what is right "in the sight of the Lord"      **7 out of 20**
- [8 if count Manasseh who repented...but who's counting?]

**Jotham son of Uzziah did what was right...in spite of obstacles**

Could have claimed victim status...then **lived and died a loser**... but chose not to

**2 Chronicles 27:2** [Read] [Jotham] **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.

"Everybody fails but nobody is a failure until they blame someone else".  
In spite of his father's failure and the bad example of others Jotham pressed on...

- We are good examples as we follow Christ...
  1. **Paul:** Follow me as I follow Christ
  2. **Joshua:** People agreed to follow Joshua...**as he followed the Lord**
- Parents can be great examples **as they follow the Lord**
- Others can be great examples **as they follow the Lord but...**

Every human example will let us down at some time [just as we will let others down]  
**Jesus says follow Him...** no matter what others are doing/not doing

**John 21:20** [Follow Me] ...Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following... 21 ... said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, **what is that to you? You follow Me.**"

- What others are doing/not doing should not hinder our own walk...**at all**

- **Jotham:** Not dismayed/discouraged from giving his all to Lord even if others did not

**Jotham took note of the bad he saw in others. Set his heart to do things differently  
Jotham took note of the good he saw in his dad...and set his heart to do it better**

- **Chose to be a Builder like his father**

[cont.] 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.**

- **We should be builders** in the midst of a world that wants to tear down

**Colossians 2:6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, 7 rooted and **built up in Him** and **established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

- **Being built up and in turn building other up in the Lord** [Parent air first]

**1 Samuel 23:16** Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and **strengthened [encouraged] his hand in God.** 17 And he said to him, "Do not fear..."

- Builder like his father...
- **Fighter like his father**

[cont.] 5 [Jotham] **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.

- **We should be fighters** for Truth, Justice and Righteousness

**1 Timothy 1:18** This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare**, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck...

- **Fight the good fight of the mind:** Keep the faith. Shield from fiery darts in mind

**2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh.** 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for **pulling down strongholds**, 5 **casting down arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing **every thought into captivity** to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being **ready to punish** all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

- **Fight the good fight against the flesh:** Fight for purity leading to good conscience

**2 Timothy 2:22** [Prepared as a vessel of honor] **Flee also youthful lusts;** but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. [Using God's rules]

- Fight the good fight against unbelief, impurity, vain talk
- **Fight the good fight for the things of God....**

**1 Timothy 6:11** **But you,** O man of God, flee these things [love of money] and pursue

righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 **Fight the good fight** of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the **good confession** in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate...

- **Fight good fight for:** Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness
- **Fight the good fight against:** Fear of man. Not ashamed of Gospel; power of God

**2 Timothy 4:7** I have **fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

[cont.] **2 Chronicles 27:6** So Jotham became mighty, because he **prepared his ways** before the Lord his God.

### **Key: Builders and Fighters...prepare their ways**

1. **Prepared their ways...** Walked circumspectly not haphazardly
2. **before the Lord...** Fear of God: Healthy paranoia/obsession
3. **Their God...** Personal Relationship. Not fathers. Better.

#### ▪ **Jotham:**

1. Did what was right before the Lord
  2. Prepared his way before the Lord
  3. Builder and Fighter: Trowel in one hand/Sword in other [Nehemiah]
  4. Learning from everyone: What to do/what not to do
  5. Jotham did not allow himself to become a victim/get discouraged
  6. Self-pity was not an option/not in his dictionary
- He took what was good from flawed examples. Ate meat/spit bones
  - He found his own purpose by seeking *the Lord his God*. Continued a better legacy

### **Prepared himself for what God had personally for him/for the time he lived**

**1 Chronicles 12:32** ... the sons of Issachar who **had understanding of the times**, to know what Israel ought to do

**Esther 4:14** [Things look bad but...] who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for **such a time as this?**"

- **Jotham:** Did what was right in the sight of the Lord. Jotham was Complete.

35 However the high places were not removed; the **people still sacrificed** and burned incense on the high places. [Jotham] built the Upper Gate of the house of the Lord. 36 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 37 In those days **the Lord began to send Rezin king of Syria** and **Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah**. 38 So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then **Ahaz his son reigned in his place.**

- **Jotham:** "The Lord is Perfect" died
- **Ahaz:** "he has grasped" takes his place as King of Judah.

**Judgment will continue on Northern Kingdom of Israel using Assyria  
Next: Attack on the Southern Kingdom using 2 unlikely allies...**

- **King of Syria** [not Assyria]                      King Rezin
- **King of Israel**                                      King Pekah [Flashback here]

**Both attack Judah during Ahaz reign in Judah as seen in Ch. 16 and 2 Chron 28**