

“He Prepared His Ways Before
the LORD”

2Chronicles 27

“He Prepared His Ways Before the LORD”

- 2Chron. 27
- 2Kings 15:32-38
 - Jotham means “Perfection of the Lord”
 - Jerushah means “She that possesses the inheritance”
 - 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.
 - During this time Jotham learned to trust the Lord

Jotham Learned From His Father

- To seek the Lord early in his reign
 - 2Chron. 26:3-5 - “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. 4 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 5 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.”

Jotham Learned From His Father

- God's enemies are his enemies
 - 2Chron. 26:6-8 - “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. 7 God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites. 8 Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong.”

Jotham Learned From His Father

- To prepare his people for the battle
 - 2Chron. 26:9-15
- To obey the Lord
 - 2Chron. 6:16-23

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Prayer

- Psalm 5:3 - “My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.”
- Ex. 33:11 - “So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.”
- 1Thes. 5:17 - “pray without ceasing”

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- “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)*

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Praise

- Psalm 135:1-3 - “Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD! 2 You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God, 3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.”
- Heb. 13:15 - “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”
- James 5:13 - “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Priority

- Psalm 90:12 - “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
- Matt. 8:18-22 - “And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. 19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go. 20 And Jesus said to him, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head. 21 Then another of His disciples said to Him, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. 22 But Jesus said to him, Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”
- “A godly man prefers grace before goods and wisdom before the world.”

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Philosophy
 - 1Cor. 1:17 - “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”
 - 1Cor. 2:1-5 - “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Philosophy

- Col. 2:8, 20-23 - “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ... 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- 21 Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle, 22 which all concern things which perish with the using--according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Philosophy

- “Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.”
(Albert Einstein)
- Philosophy is the branch of study that masquerades as a science, pretends to examine truth, and spectacularly falls short in both matters.

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Profession

- Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
- Gal. 6:14 - “But 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.”
- “It's hard to be proud of being Jewish when your only religious experience was seeing the movie ‘Exodus’.”
(Lynn Savitt)
- 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

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Passion

- Phil. 3:7-14

- “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!”

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Patience

- Luke 21:19 - “By your patience possess your souls”
- 2Thes. 1:3-10
- “Patience is the companion of wisdom.”
(Augustine)
- “You get a chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it.”
- When you feel like you have held on long enough, remember that God has been holding since before this world was made.

How Do I Prepare My Ways Before The LORD?

- Pilgrimage
 - 1Peter 2:11-12 - “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
 - Heb. 11:13 - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

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- Three Old Testament kings who followed the Lord, but sowed the seeds of their undoing by holding on a weakness.
- There is a reason to consider them: Hell will be populated with Christians who did the same thing
- Our profession of faith must be who we are first and above all other roles in our lives
- Our love for God must be greater than our love for any other being
- 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