

UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

II Chronicles 20 and 27

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Today, we are going to consider lessons from two kings of Judah.

- The first king is Jehoshaphat and we will consider his unorthodox approach to things in II Chronicles 17, 19 and 20.
- The second king is Jotham, whose father was Uzziah. His entire reign is recorded in II Chronicles 27.

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Background on Jehoshaphat:

- Really good king for the most part.
 - II Chron. 17:6, “his heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord.”
- Made some unwise alliances- II Chron. 18 and 20 with Ahab and Ahaziah, kings of Israel.

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He made some “strange decisions” that somehow turned out good.

- First, he instituted a national education program based off of God’s Word. Imagine that!- II Chron. 17:7-9
 - I would hate for our children to be taught truth and wholesome morals.
 - That sounds a little dangerous to me.

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He made some “strange decisions” that somehow turned out good.

- Second, he set up a court system with judges, designed to make decisions based on the judgments of the Lord.- II Chron. 19:5-7
- They were instructed not to take bribes and be impartial.
- I’m not gonna lie I’m a little skeptical about this.

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- Third, at the threat of war, he.....
 - Proclaimed a national fast.
 - Led his country in a national prayer.
 - Presided over an occasion of national worship.
 - You mean to tell me, that he didn’t contact the war department about creating a draft or increasing the weapons supply?

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He made some “strange decisions” that somehow turned out good.

- Look at how all this turned out.
 - God provided.
 - Judah was richly blessed.
 - I would love to see another nation opt for these approaches to things.

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Background on Jotham:

- 25 years old when he took over as king for his father Uzziah.
- Reigned for 16 years.
- He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
- In fact, II Chron. 27:6 says, “So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before the Lord.”

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Two unconventional lessons from Jotham:

- **#1- He taught us that you can break the cycle inherited from your parents.**
 - How many people are going to perish because of the improper beliefs of their parents?
- **#2- Your significance and positive contributions are not measured in quantity but quality.**
 - He was mighty, yet died at the age of 41.