

One of the powerful things about the Bible is the direct simplicity of lessons God wants people to learn. The history we find in the Word does not paint all rosy pictures and tell only sweet stories. We see the good and the bad, the hope and the hopelessness, the victories and the defeats. We see God in all His glory and man in all his humanity. Ultimately the message of the Bible is that God is holy and loving, and humanity has a responsibility to respond to the Lord. Each story has a message for us. Today's passage is no different.

The Consistencies in the Two Kings, 27:1, 28:1

- Both Jotham and Ahaz were about the same age when they became king of Judah.
- Both Jotham and Ahaz reigned 16 years as king of Judah.
- Both Jotham and Ahaz became king when the land was prosperous.

The Contrast between the Two Kings, 27:3-5, 28:5-8 and 16-21

- Jotham's reign was marked by building and bounty; Ahaz's reign was marked with battles and bitterness.
- Jotham gained prosperity for himself and his people; Ahaz was given pain for himself and his people.
- Jotham left a legacy of blessing and godliness; Ahaz left a legacy of blasphemy and godlessness.
- Jotham ended his reign with the nation in a good place; Ahaz ended his reign with the nation in a bad place.

The Cause for the Difference for the Two Kings

The ONLY difference between Jotham and Ahaz was the way they related to God.

- Jotham was faithful to God, 27:2 and 6, and Ahaz was unfaithful to God, 28:1b-4 and 22-25.
- The period was the same, the people were the same, and the potential was the same.

The Conclusions from the Two Kings

- That one decision impacts the life you live.
- That one decision impacts the ones you love.
- That one decision impacts the legacy you leave.

When people look at your life, do they see the greatness of God revealed by His faithfulness to your life?

When people look at your life, do they see the grace of God released in His power on your life?

When people look at your life, do they see the glory of God reflected through His presence upon your life?