



Study Guide: 2 Chronicles – Chapter 27

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This study guide provides an educational overview of 2 Chronicles Chapter 27 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

2 Chronicles Chapter 27 presents the reign of Jotham, king of Judah, providing insight into his leadership and the political and military conditions of his time. This chapter contributes to the broader narrative of the Chronicler by highlighting the continuation of Davidic kingship through a relatively faithful ruler, emphasizing the importance of obedience to God and the consequences of partial faithfulness. Readers should watch for the balance between Jotham's accomplishments and his incomplete devotion, as well as the geopolitical challenges Judah faced during his reign.

Context

The immediate literary context of 2 Chronicles 27 follows the account of Ahaz's reign, a king noted for his unfaithfulness and idolatry. Jotham, his son, ascends to the throne and reigns in Jerusalem. The Chronicler's focus is on the covenantal faithfulness of Judah's kings and the resulting blessings or judgments. The historical frame is the divided monarchy period, with Judah in the south and Israel in the north, often at odds. Key figures include Jotham himself and the neighboring king of Israel, Pekah, who opposes Judah militarily. The setting is Jerusalem, the political and religious center of Judah, where the Davidic line continues under divine oversight.

Outline

The chapter can be divided into three main movements. First, the introduction of Jotham's reign, including his age at accession, length of reign, and an evaluation of his faithfulness (verses 1-3). Second, a summary of his leadership achievements, focusing on his building projects and military successes, especially his fortification efforts and victories over the Ammonites (verses 4-6). Third, the political and military challenge posed by Pekah, king of Israel, who attacks Judah but is ultimately repelled, highlighting the ongoing regional tensions (verses 7-9).



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: These verses introduce Jotham, noting he was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and that he ruled for sixteen years in Jerusalem. The Chronicler emphasizes that Jotham did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, following the example of his father Uzziah, but he did not enter the temple, indicating a partial faithfulness or possible limitations in his priestly access.

Verses 4-6: The focus shifts to Jotham's accomplishments. He built the upper gate of the temple of the Lord and fortified the wall of Ophel, demonstrating his commitment to strengthening Jerusalem's defenses and religious infrastructure. Additionally, he waged successful wars against the Ammonites, who paid him tribute, reflecting his military competence and the relative peace his reign brought to Judah's borders.

Verses 7-9: The narrative concludes with the account of Pekah, king of Israel, who allied with the Arameans to attack Judah. Despite this threat, Jotham's forces successfully repelled the invaders. This episode highlights the ongoing hostility between the northern and southern kingdoms and underscores the precarious political situation during Jotham's reign.

Key Themes

One key theme is the tension between faithfulness and incompleteness. Jotham is commended for doing what was right but is noted for not entering the temple, symbolizing a partial devotion to God. Another theme is the importance of leadership in both spiritual and political realms, as seen in Jotham's building projects and military defense. The chapter also explores the theme of divine blessing linked to obedience, as Jotham's successes in fortification and warfare are connected to his general faithfulness. Lastly, the ongoing conflict between Israel and Judah reflects the broader theme of division and strife within God's people during this period.

Cross-References

2 Kings 15:32-38 provides a parallel account of Jotham's reign, offering additional historical details and confirming the Chronicler's portrayal. The mention of Jotham not entering the temple can be compared with 2 Chronicles 26, where Uzziah's leprosy prevents him from temple access, highlighting the significance of priestly purity and access. The military conflict with Pekah echoes themes found in Isaiah 7, where the Syro-



Ephraimite war threatens Judah, providing prophetic context to the political tensions. Finally, the building of the temple gate and fortifications recalls Solomon's temple construction in 1 Kings 6-7, emphasizing continuity in temple worship and city defense.

Application

Modern disciples can learn from Jotham's example the importance of wholehearted devotion to God. Partial faithfulness, as seen in his failure to enter the temple, reminds believers that God desires full commitment, not mere outward compliance. Jotham's attention to both spiritual and practical matters encourages a balanced approach to leadership and stewardship, integrating faith with responsible action. The chapter also challenges believers to trust God amid external threats and conflicts, relying on His guidance for protection and victory. Finally, it prompts reflection on the consequences of divided loyalties and the value of unity within the community of faith.

Summary

2 Chronicles 27 presents Jotham as a king who largely followed the Lord's ways, achieving notable successes in fortifying Jerusalem and defending Judah against enemies. However, his incomplete devotion, symbolized by his absence from the temple, reveals the complexity of faithfulness in leadership. The chapter balances themes of obedience, political reality, and divine blessing, illustrating how God's people navigate challenges when led by those who seek Him but fall short of full commitment. This account encourages reflection on the integration of faith and action in the life of God's people.