

2 Chronicles 27 — “Establish Your Ways Before the Lord Your God! Learn from the Godly King Jotham!”**Introduction**

“I do not remember ever meeting one who really walked with God who did not make orderliness one of the first principles of life... They are the habits of the soul that walks before God, and which is accustomed to think of Him as seeing in secret, and considering all our ways.” (F. B. Meyer)

❖Note the importance of “**character**” —

Background & Context of 2 Chronicles 27:

- Summary in v.2 - he did Right! [the Hebrew word speaks of what’s upright, biblical, Scriptural, just, righteous]
- The name “Jotham” means: “*Jehovah is Blameless*”

Background & Bigger Context of the Ancient Near Eastern World:

- Jotham reigned in a period when the Assyrians were on the rise -- powerfully, globally, increasingly, fearfully, and violently! And the contemporary prophets were Hosea, Micah, Amos and Isaiah. (this gives us a clue as to the **society/culture of life in Judah** during Jotham’s reign).
 - See Isaiah 1:1; 7:1; Hosea 1:1; Micah 1:1 [all speak of the reign of “Jotham” during these prophetic times]
- This speaks of a corrupt, unjust, idolatrous, pagan, deceitful, greedy, arrogant time in Judah & Israel!

THESIS — WHAT MARKED JOTHAM? What consumed him? What made him the man he was? Why was he used of God & blessed?

5 *distinguishing features of this godly king! How did he establish his ways?*

1. **Personal Commitment to God** – *commitment*
2. **Mighty Humility before God** – *contrition*
3. **Careful Conduct with God** – *conduct*
4. **Proper Understanding of God** – *consecration*
5. **Towering Courage from God** – *courage*

This study will focus primarily on exegeting verse 6: [See the English translations below:]

NIV - he walked **steadfastly** before the LORD his God
 NLT - he was **careful** to live in obedience to the LORD his God
 NASB & ESV - he **ordered** his ways before the LORD his God
 HCSB - he did **not waver** in obeying the LORD his God
 NET - he was **determined** to please the LORD his God
 KJV - he **prepared** his ways before the LORD His God

I. PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO GOD! (6a)

- King Jotham became mighty/strong because of his personal commitment to God...
 1. mighty in **resolve** -- to this ONE true God
 2. mighty in **prayer** -- in prayer, desperate trust, confession, thanksgiving, pleading.
 3. mighty in **faith** -- trusting God and his promises.
 4. mighty in **action** -- went to battle, protected the nation, acted justly, righteously!
 5. mighty against his **foes** -- had victories!
 6. mighty in the **midst** of his own people -- amidst a black culture, he was a bright light!
 - from Spurgeon’s sermon: “Jotham’s Peculiar Honor” [*a superb sermon to read!*]

The LORD was *Jotham’s God* --

- it was **PERSONAL**
- it was **PREEMINENT**
- it was **PRIORITY**
- it was **PERVASIVE**

“Jotham also was quite a young man when he came into the position of power. For some years he occupied the place of his father, nominally holding the position of regent, yet really acting as the actual monarch [for 11-years while Uzziah was a leper, age 14-25]. And now, at the age of twenty-five, we find Jotham sitting upon the throne of Judah. How necessary it is, **especially in young people**, that the heart and the ways should be prepared before the Lord their God!” (Spurgeon)

II. MIGHTY HUMILITY BEFORE GOD! (6a)

III. CAREFUL CONDUCT WITH GOD! (6a)

King Jotham was not careless, he was not half-hearted, he was not apathetic, indifferent, going through the motions. Nor was he wasn’t negligent, inattentive, sloppy. Rather, He was careful & deliberate!

- v.6 - to *establish, order* all the ways...
 - the Hebrew verb (“to establish/order”) has the idea of a establishing, cementing, making firm, secure, steadfast, immovable. It gives a sense of ‘well-being’ from being under the hand of God.
 - It refers back to the Davidic covenant — I Chron 17:14b — his throne will be ESTABLISHED // fixed forever!!!
 - Our heart is to be *fixed* on God (Ps 112.7)
 - Our heart is to *established* on God (Ps 57.7)

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- A good prayer -- Give me a *steadfast* Spirit (Ps 51.10)
- *Establish* my footsteps in your WORD (Ps 119.133)

Psalm 119:5 — Oh that my ways were directed to keep your statutes!

IV. PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD! (6a)

“In the presence of the LORD his God...”

- GOD’s omniscience (his *EYE*)
- GOD’s covenant-love (his *ELECTION*)
- GOD’s divine power (his *EXALTEDNESS*)

V. TOWERING COURAGE FROM GOD! (2b)

- ✓ When society was corrupt in idolatry, immorality, injustice, greed & pride, **Jotham remained resolute to follow God wholly.**
- ✓ He wasn’t tainted by culture’s sin. He wasn’t moved by society’s infections. He was like a plane flying high over the pollution down below!

A bit of a snapshot from the contemporary prophets as to the society & culture of Judah at the time of Jotham’s kingship:

1. **Hosea** - See Hosea 4:1-2, 6-10, 13*, 14; 5:2
2. **Micah** - Micah 1:1 - in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
1. see Micah 7:1-6
3. **Amos** — Amos 2:4-5; 6:1-8
4. **Isaiah** — Isa 1:1 - in the days of Uzziah and Jotham
1. Isa 1:4 - they have abandoned the Lord
2. Isa 1:11-15 - idolatry
3. Isa 5:1-7 - violence & injustice
4. Isa 29:13-16 - false worship

“Below the surface prosperity that was enjoyed by both kingdoms at this time, the contemporary preaching of Hosea and Amos indicates the presence of serious moral and spiritual decay.” (J Barton Payne)

“Though Isaiah, Hosea, Micah, and other holy prophets then living showed them their sin, to this day, people will not leave their old evil customs, though never so much preached down.” (John Trapp)

O for a thousand tongues to sing*Charles Wesley, 1739*

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise!
The glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace!

I felt my Lord's atoning blood
close to my soul applied;
me, me he loved, the Son of God,
for me, for me he died!

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

Look unto him, ye nations, own
your God, ye fallen race!
Look, and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

Glory to God, and praise and love
be ever, ever given,
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.

Jesus, I come!*William Sleeper, 19th century*

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.