

1 Chronicles 12:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Warriors who joined David - unity of Israel. The Hebrew term גִּבּוֹר (gibbor) - mighty warrior is theologically significant here, pointing to Unity of God's people under chosen leader. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about Unity of God's people under chosen leader. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Church united under Christ's headship.

Historical Context

Historical Background: This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Warriors who joined David - unity of Israel occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Unity of God's people under chosen leader challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Church united under Christ's headship teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

Interlinear Text

וּמִבְנֵי י	יִשָּׁשְׁכָר	לֵדַעַת	בִּינָה		
And of the children	of Issachar	to know	which were men that had understanding		
H1121	H3485	H3045	H998		
לְעֵת יָמִים	לֵדַעַת	מָה	עָשָׂה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	רָאשֵׁיהֶם
of the times	to know	H4100	ought to do	what Israel	the heads
H6256	H3045		H6213	H3478	H7218
מֵאֵת יָמִים	וְכָל	אֶחָיוֹתָם	עַל		
of them were two hundred	H3605	and all their brethren	H5921		
H3967		H251			
פִּיקָדָם:					
were at their commandment					
H6310					

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 5:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Esther 1:13 (Word): Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

Isaiah 33:6 (Parallel theme): And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

Matthew 16:3 (Parallel theme): And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

Ecclesiastes 7:19 (Parallel theme): Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

Proverbs 14:8 (Parallel theme): The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

Proverbs 24:5 (Parallel theme): A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

Genesis 49:14 (Parallel theme): Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens:

Ecclesiastes 9:18 (Parallel theme): Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

Micah 6:9 (Parallel theme): The LORD'S voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.

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