

1 Chronicles 12:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Warriors who joined David - unity of Israel. The Hebrew term גִּבֹּר (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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְאַתָּה	בְּקָרְבִּים	עַד	אַל יִקַּם	וְשָׁשָׁךְ רִ
H1571	Moreover they that were nigh	H413		them even unto Issachar
	H7138			H3485
וְאַתָּה	בְּקָרְבִּים	עַד	אַל יִקַּם	וְשָׁשָׁךְ רִ
and Zebulun	and Naphtali	brought	bread	on asses
H2074	H5321	H935	H3899	H2543
וְאַתָּה	בְּקָרְבִּים	עַד	אַל יִקַּם	וְשָׁשָׁךְ רִ
and on mules	and on oxen	and meat	meal	cakes
H6505	H1241	H3978	H7058	H1690
וְאַתָּה	בְּקָרְבִּים	עַד	אַל יִקַּם	וְשָׁשָׁךְ רִ
of figs and bunches of raisins	and wine	and oil	and on oxen	and sheep
H6778	H3196	H8081	H1241	H6629
וְאַתָּה	בְּקָרְבִּים	עַד	אַל יִקַּם	וְשָׁשָׁךְ רִ
abundantly	for there was joy	in Israel		
H7230	H3588	H8057	H3478	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:18 (Sin): Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

2 Samuel 16:1 (Sin): And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and

upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

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