

1 Chronicles 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us:

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Ark of the Covenant - first attempt to bring it to Jerusalem. The Hebrew term **קדש** (qodesh) - holiness is theologically significant here, pointing to Importance of approaching God properly. 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 Importance of approaching God properly. 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: Christ mediates proper worship and access to God.

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 Ark of the Covenant - first attempt to bring it to Jerusalem 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Importance of approaching God properly challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ mediates proper worship and access to God 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

אָמֵן	יְשָׁרָאֵל	לְקֹרֶב	לְ	לְכָל	יְהִי	יְהִי	אָמֵן
said	And David	H3605	unto all the congregation	H6951	of Israel	H518	
H559	H1732				H3478		
עַלְיָכָם	וְמִן	טַב	וְמִן	הִנֵּה	אֱלֹהִים	נוּ	
H5921					If it seem good	H4480	unto you and that it be of the LORD
					H2895		H3068
							our God
H430							
בְּכָל	בְּנֵשָׁאָר	יִם	אֲכִיכָּה	יְנֻמְדָּה	הַנְּשָׁלָט	הַ	בְּרִיאָה
					H5921		
abroad	let us send	H5921	unto our brethren	H251	every where that are left	H7604	
H6555	H7971						H3605
וּפְלִיּוּם	פְּקֻדָּנִים	יְמִינָה	וְעַמְּקָם	יְשָׁרָאֵל	וְאֶרְצָת	וְתַתְמִית	
in all the land	of Israel	H5973	and with them also to the priests	H3548	and Levites	H3881	
H776	H3478						
אַלְיכָה	וַיַּקְרְבָּה	וְאֶתְבָּחָה	מִגְּרָשֵׁיהָ	בָּעָרֶב	וְאֶתְבָּחָה	וְאֶתְבָּחָה	
which are in their cities	and suburbs	H4054	that they may gather	H6908		H413	
H5892							

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 31:1 (References Israel): Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.