

1 Chronicles 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

Analysis

And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people—The Hebrew *yashar* ('right') indicates moral correctness and straight judgment. David's proposal to retrieve the ark received unanimous approval. Yet this 'right thing' was attempted wrongly (on a cart instead of Levitical shoulders), resulting in Uzzah's death (v.10).

This verse warns against substituting popular consensus for divine instruction. The people's enthusiasm didn't sanctify improper methods. Good intentions without adherence to God's prescribed order end in judgment. The Chronicler teaches post-exilic Israel that worship must follow revealed patterns, not human reasoning.

Historical Context

David consulted all Israel about retrieving the ark from Kiriath-jearim, where it had remained since the Philistines returned it (1 Sam 6-7). This democratic consultation showed David's leadership style, yet the subsequent disaster proved that majority approval doesn't override divine law.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can we ensure our 'good ideas' for serving God align with His revealed will?
2. When has popular enthusiasm led you to attempt God's work in unauthorized ways?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר ו	כָּל	הַקֶּה ל	לַעֲשׂוֹת	זֶה	כִּי	יִן
said	H3605	And all the congregation	that they would do so	H3651	H3588	
H559		H6951	H6213			
וַיֵּשֶׁר	הַדָּבָר	בְּעֵינֵי	כָּל	הָעָם:		
was right	for the thing	in the eyes	H3605	of all the people		
H3474	H1697	H5869		H5971		

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