

1 Chronicles 13:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Ark of the Covenant - first attempt to bring it to Jerusalem. The Hebrew term *קֹדֶשׁ* (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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְהָעֵל וְ	וְיָד וְ	וְכָל וְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל וְ	בְּעֵל תְּה	אֶל וְ	קִרְיַת וְ
to bring up	And David	H3605	and all Israel	to Baalah	H413	H0
H5927	H1732		H3478	H1173		
וְיָד וְ	אֶשֶׁר וְ	לְיְהוּדָה וְ	וְהָעֵל וְ	מִשָּׁם וְ		
that is to Kirjathjearim	H834	which belonged to Judah	to bring up	H8033		
H7157		H3063	H5927			
אֶת וְ	אֶרֶץ וְ	הָאֵלֹהִים וְ	יְהוָה וְ	יֹשֵׁב וְ		
H853	thence the ark	of God	the LORD	that dwelleth		
	H727	H430	H3068	H3427		
וְהָעֵל וְ	אֶשֶׁר וְ	נִקְרָא וְ	שְׁמוֹ וְ			
between the cherubims	H834	is called	whose name			
H3742		H7121	H8034			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:9 (Parallel theme): And the border was drawn from the top of the hill unto the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and went out to the cities of mount Ephron; and the border was drawn to Baalah, which is Kirjath-jearim:

Exodus 25:22 (References Israel): And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

2 Kings 19:15 (References God): And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

Joshua 15:60 (Parallel theme): Kirjath-baal, which is Kirjath-jearim, and Rabbah; two cities with their villages:

1 Samuel 4:4 (References God): So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

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