

1 Chronicles 15:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Proper ark transport - Levitical worship order. The Hebrew term 'לֵוִי' (Levi) - joined/attached is theologically significant here, pointing to Ordained worship according to God's prescription. 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 Ordained worship according to God's prescription. 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 as true temple and worship center.

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 Proper ark transport - Levitical worship order 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Ordained worship according to God's prescription challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ as true temple and worship center 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

וְיָשַׁן	לֹא	בְּתִים	בְּעֵיר	בְּבָתָם	בְּבָתָם	בְּבָתָם	בְּבָתָם	בְּבָתָם	בְּבָתָם
And David made	וְיָשַׁן	him houses	in the city	of David	and prepared				
H6213	H0	H1004	H5892	H1732	H3559				H4725

לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
for the ark	of God	and pitched			for it a tent				
H727	H430	H5186			H168				

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 16:1 (References God): So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.

Psalms 132:5 (References God): Until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

1 Chronicles 15:3 (References David): And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.