

1 Chronicles 15:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אָמַר אֵלֶּיךָ יְהוָה	לֹא תִשְׁלַח אֶת כָּל־עַמּוֹד	לֹא תִשְׁלַח אֶת כָּל־עַמּוֹד	לֹא תִשְׁלַח אֶת כָּל־עַמּוֹד
H227 said H559	Then David H1732	H3808 None ought to carry H5375	H853 the ark H727
אֱלֹהִים בְּמִן כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה	בְּמִן כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה	בְּמִן כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה	בְּמִן כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה
of God H3588 H430	but the Levites H518 H3881	H3588 H0	chosen H977
יְהִי הָרָקֶב בְּמִן כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה			
for them hath the LORD H3068	None ought to carry H5375	H853 the ark H727	for them hath the LORD H3068
וְלִשְׁרָת זֶה עַד עַזְלָמָה			
and to minister H8334	unto him for H5704	ever H5769	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:8 (References Lord): At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.

Deuteronomy 31:9 (References Lord): And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

Joshua 3:3 (References God): And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.

Joshua 6:6 (References Lord): And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

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