

1 Chronicles 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark.

Analysis

And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark—The Hebrew *sho'arim* ('doorkeepers') indicates gatekeepers who regulated access to sacred space. Though seemingly menial, this role required Levitical qualification and carried serious responsibility. These men ensured proper boundaries around God's holy presence.

Chronicles repeatedly emphasizes 'doorkeepers' (9:17-27; 26:1-19), reflecting post-exilic concern for proper temple order. Their faithful service parallels New Testament teaching about church offices: not all are apostles or teachers, but all roles matter (1 Cor 12:28-29). Berechiah ('Yahweh blesses') and Elkanah ('God has created') bear names testifying to their sacred calling.

Historical Context

Temple doorkeepers (Levites) controlled who entered sacred precincts, preventing defilement and maintaining holiness. This role became especially important after the exile when boundary maintenance ensured Yahweh worship's purity against syncretistic pressures.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can you faithfully serve in 'doorkeeper' roles that protect spiritual boundaries?
2. What 'menial' service in God's kingdom deserves greater appreciation and honor?

Interlinear Text

וּבְרֵכִיָּה	וְאֶלְקָנָה	שְׁעָרֵי	לְאֹהֶל:
And Berechiah	and Elkanah	were doorkeepers	for the ark
H1296	H511	H7778	H727

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org