

1 Chronicles 15:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיָּהֵא	אָרוֹן	בֵּרִית	יְהוָה	בָּא	עָד	
H1961	And it came to pass as the ark	of the covenant	of the LORD	came	H5704	
	H727	H1285	H3068	H935		
עִיר	דָּוִיד	וּמִיכָל	בֵּת	נִשְׁקָף הִיא	שָׁאֵל	בַּעַד
to the city	David	that Michal	the daughter	of Saul	looking out	H1157
H5892	H1732	H4324	H1323	H7586	H8259	
וְהָיָה	וַיַּרְא	אֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	דָּוִיד	מְרַקֵּד	וּמִשְׁחֵק
at a window	saw	H853	king	David	dancing	and playing
H2474	H7200		H4428	H1732	H7540	H7832
וַתִּבְזֶה	לֹ	בְלִבָּהּ:				
and she despised	H0	him in her heart				
H959		H3820				

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 6:16 (Kingdom): And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.