

1 Chronicles 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David's census and divine judgment. The Hebrew term חַטָּא (chet) - sin/offense is theologically significant here, pointing to Even godly leaders sin and face consequences. 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 Even godly leaders sin and face consequences. 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 bears judgment for sin on our behalf.

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 David's census and divine judgment 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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Even godly leaders sin and face consequences challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ bears judgment for sin on our behalf 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

הַמִּשְׁחִית	לִירוּשָׁלַם	וּמַלְאךְ	הָאֱלֹהִים יִשְׁלַח	
it and as he was destroying	unto Jerusalem	And the angel	And God	sent
H7843	H3389	H4397	H430	H7971
עַל	וַיִּנָּחֵם	יְהוָה	רָאָה	הַמִּשְׁחִית
H5921	and he repented	of the LORD	beheld	it and as he was destroying
	H5162	H3068	H7200	H7843
כִּי	הַמִּשְׁחִית	וּמַלְאךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר	הָרָעָה
It is enough	it and as he was destroying	And the angel	and said	him of the evil
H7227	H7843	H4397	H559	H7451
עָמַד	יְהוָה	וּמַלְאךְ	יָדְךָ	הָרָעָה עַתָּה
H5973	of the LORD	And the angel	now thine hand	stay
	H3068	H4397	H3027	H7503
גֵּן	אֶרְנוֹן	הַיְבוּסִי		
by the threshingfloor	of Ornan	the Jebusite		
H1637	H771	H2983		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 6:6 (Repentance): And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Exodus 32:14 (Repentance): And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Jeremiah 26:18 (References Lord): Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith

the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.

Mark 14:41 (Parallel theme): And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

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