

1 Chronicles 23:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever:

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Levitical divisions and temple service organization. The Hebrew term **עֲבוֹדָה** (avodah) - service/work is theologically significant here, pointing to Ordered worship according to divine pattern. 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 Ordered worship according to divine pattern. 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: Priesthood of all believers under Christ.

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 Levitical divisions and temple service organization 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Ordered worship according to divine pattern challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Priesthood of all believers under Christ 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

ישָׁרָאֵל אֱלֹהִי יְהוָה אֱמֶרְכָּי
H3588 said H1732 For David H5117 hath given rest H3068 The LORD H430 God H3478 of Israel

לְעַמּוֹן לְעַמּוֹן תָּשַׁכֵּחַ מִלְּעָזָלָם
H5971 unto his people H7931 that they may dwell H3389 in Jerusalem H5704 for ever H5769

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 22:18 (References God): Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.

2 Samuel 7:11 (References Lord): And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

Psalms 135:21 (References Lord): Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Zechariah 8:3 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

2 Samuel 7:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

Colossians 2:9 (References God): For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.