

1 Chronicles 23:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that they should keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the holy place, and the charge of the sons of Aaron their brethren, in the service of the house of the LORD.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Levitical divisions and temple service organization. The Hebrew term אֲבוּדָה (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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

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|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| וְשָׁמְרוּ | אֶת | וּמִשְׁמֶתָהּ | אֶת־ | | |
| And that they should keep | H853 | and the charge | of the tabernacle | | |
| H8104 | | H4931 | H168 | | |
| מִוֶּעֶד | וְאֵת | וּמִשְׁמֶתָהּ | הַקֹּדֶשׁ | וּמִשְׁמֶתָהּ | בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל |
| of the congregation | H853 | and the charge | of the holy | and the charge | of the sons |
| H4150 | | H4931 | H6944 | H4931 | H1121 |
| אֶת־ | אֶחָיוֹם | לְעִבְדָּתָהּ | בְּיֵת | יְהוָה: | |
| of Aaron | their brethren | in the service | of the house | of the LORD | |
| H175 | H251 | H5656 | H1004 | H3068 | |

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:53 (Temple): But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.

Numbers 3:38 (Temple): But those that encamp before the tabernacle toward the east, even before the tabernacle of the congregation eastward, shall be Moses, and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

1 Chronicles 9:27 (Parallel theme): And they lodged round about the house of God, because the charge was upon them, and the opening thereof every morning pertained to them.