

1 Chronicles 28:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David's final charge and temple plans. The Hebrew term לבב (levav) - heart/mind is theologically significant here, pointing to Wholehearted devotion to God's purposes. 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 Wholehearted devotion to God's purposes. 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's commands to disciples.

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 final charge and temple plans 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on Wholehearted devotion to God's purposes challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?

2. What does Christ's commands to disciples 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

וְאֶל־אַמְرֵךְ תְּבִנֵּה בָּית	לֹא־לְשָׁם	אַיִלְתְּהִים	בָּתְהִים	בָּתְהִים	לְשָׁם	
But God	said	H0	H3808	unto me	Thou shalt not build	an house
H430	H559			H1129		H1004
לְשָׁם	אַיִלְתְּהִים	אַיִלְתְּהִים	אַיִלְתְּהִים	אַיִלְתְּהִים	אַיִלְתְּהִים	אַיִלְתְּהִים
for my name	H3588	because thou hast been a man	H376	of war	H4421	blood
H8034					H859	H1818
שָׁפְכָתִים:						
and hast shed						
H8210						

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 22:8 (Blood): But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.

1 Chronicles 17:4 (Parallel theme): Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

1 Kings 5:3 (References God): Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.