

1 Chronicles 28:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel:

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David's final charge and temple plans. The Hebrew term לֵבָב (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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

בַּחֲרָה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	בִּי	מִכָּל	בֵּית
chose	Howbeit the LORD	God	of Israel	H0	H3605	and of the house
H977	H3068	H430	H3478			H1004
אָבִי	לְהִיוֹת	לְמֶלֶךְ	עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	לְעוֹלָם	כִּי
of my father	H1961	to be king	H5921	of Israel	for ever	H3588
H1		H4428		H3478	H5769	Judah
						H3063
בַּחֲרָה	לְנֶגֶד	בֵּית	יְהוּדָה	בֵּית	אָבִי	
chose	to be the ruler	and of the house	Judah	and of the house	of my father	
H977	H5057	H1004	H3063	H1004	H1	
וּבְרָנִי	אָבִי	בִּי	רָצָה	לְהַמְלִיךְ	עַל	כָּל
and among the sons	of my father	H0	he liked	me to make me king	H5921	H3605
H1121	H1		H7521	H4427		
יִשְׂרָאֵל:						
of Israel						
H3478						

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 5:2 (Parallel theme): For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)

1 Samuel 16:1 (Kingdom): And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 Chronicles 17:27 (References Lord): Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed for ever.

1 Chronicles 17:23 (References Lord): Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

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