

1 Chronicles 29:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Analysis

David's rhetorical question 'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort?' expresses wonder at the privilege of giving to God. The phrase 'all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee' establishes the theological foundation for Christian stewardship: we give back to God what He first gave us. This eliminates boasting (nothing is truly 'ours') while elevating generosity (we can participate in God's work). The willingness to give reflects God's gracious work in hearts. This principle reaches fullest expression in Christ who gave Himself (2 Corinthians 8:9) and enables our generosity through the Spirit.

Historical Context

Israel's massive gifts for temple construction (gold, silver, bronze, precious stones - see 29:2-9) represented unprecedented generosity. David's prayer interprets this not as human achievement but divine grace enabling willing hearts to participate in sacred work.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you view giving to God's work as obligation or privilege? How does David's wonder reshape your perspective?
2. How does recognizing that all possessions ultimately belong to God affect your generosity and contentment?

Interlinear Text

עַמְּךָ אָנָּה תִּכְּרֹת וְאַנְּכִי
H3588 H4310 H589 H4310 But who am I and what is my people
H5971

בְּכָל מִמְּבָר נָעַצְתָּ בְּכָל כַּאֲתָה לְהַתְּנִינָה
that we should be able to offer so willingly H2063 H3588 H4480 H3605
H6113 H3581 H5068

לְךָ נָתַתִּי כָּל מִלְכָוֹת
after this sort for all things come of thee and of thine own have we given
H3027 H5414 H0

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 3:5 (Parallel theme): Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Romans 11:36 (Parallel theme): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Psalms 115:1 (Parallel theme): Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Genesis 32:10 (Parallel theme): I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

2 Samuel 7:18 (Parallel theme): Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

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