

2 Chronicles 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people?

Analysis

And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people?

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Foolish leadership rejecting wise counsel. The Chronicler's theological perspective emphasizes immediate divine retribution—kings who seek God prosper, while those who forsake Him face judgment. This pattern provides instruction for the post-exilic community on the conditions for God's blessing.

The account demonstrates God's covenant faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness. Even in judgment, God preserves a remnant and offers restoration through repentance. The repeated cycle of apostasy, judgment, and restoration reveals both human sinfulness and divine mercy. References to the temple, proper worship, and priestly service emphasize the Chronicler's concern for correct religious observance.

Theologically, these accounts point beyond immediate history to God's ultimate purposes through the Davidic line. Despite repeated failures, God preserves David's dynasty, anticipating the perfect King who will reign in righteousness. The pattern of judgment for sin and restoration through repentance prefigures the gospel message of salvation through Christ.

Historical Context

This passage occurs during the divided monarchy period when Judah existed separately from northern Israel. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective, addressing the restored community in Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile (539 BCE onward). His emphasis on temple worship, proper religious observance, and God's covenant faithfulness speaks directly to the needs of his audience who had just rebuilt the temple and were reestablishing their identity as God's people.

The historical context demonstrates both God's judgment on persistent sin and His readiness to restore those who genuinely repent. The Chronicler omits most northern kingdom material, focusing on Judah and the Davidic line to emphasize God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Lachish, Beersheba, and Jerusalem corroborate the biblical accounts of various kings' reigns and building projects.

Understanding the Chronicler's post-exilic perspective is crucial—he's not merely recording history but applying past lessons to his contemporary audience, showing that the same principles of seeking God, maintaining proper worship, and covenant faithfulness that determined blessing or judgment in the past still apply.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse illustrate the principle of divine retribution (blessing for obedience, judgment for sin)?
2. What specific applications does this passage have for maintaining spiritual faithfulness in contemporary Christian life?

3. How does this account point to God's ultimate purposes through the Davidic line and the coming Messiah?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֲשֶׁר	בְּזִקְנִים	אֶת	רְמִבֶּעֶת	מִפְּנֵי	לְהַ	תֹּעֵץ	יִם
counsel give	And king	Rehoboam	H854	with the old	H834	H1961		
H3289	H4428	H7346			H2205			

עַמְדָּךְ	יִם	שְׁלָמָה	הַ	לִפְנֵי	אָבִיו	בְּהִוָּת	וְ	מִן
men that had stood	before	Solomon	his father	H1	H1961	while he yet lived		
H5975	H6440	H8010			H2416			

לִאמְרָה	רַקֵּשְׁתִּי	אַתָּתִי	מִכְּלָמָדִים	אַתָּתִי	מִכְּלָמָדִים	לִפְנֵי	לְעַמּוֹד	בְּזִקְנִים
saying	What	H859	counsel give	H3289		H7725	H5971	H2088
H559	H349							

דָּבָר:

answer

H1697

Additional Cross-References

Job 32:7 (Parallel theme): I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.