

2 Chronicles 11:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.

Analysis

So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Initial faithfulness giving way to compromise. 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְיִרְבֹּקְנָה	אֶת	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִּהְוֹדָה	יִאָמֵץ	אֶת	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִּהְוֹדָה	יִאָמֵץ
So they strengthened	H853	the kingdom	H4438	of Judah	H3063	strong	H553	H853
	H2388		H4438		H3063		H553	
רְמַבֵּעַ מִן	בְּצִיּוֹן	וְשָׁלָם הַמִּלְחָמָה	לְשָׁנָה יָמִין	שָׁלֹשׁ:	כִּי	שָׁלֹשׁ:	פָּלָךְ	וְיָמַר
and made Rehoboam	H7346	the son	H1121	and Solomon	H8010	years	H8141	for three
								H3588
								H1980
בְּדַבָּרְךָ	בְּדַבָּרְךָ	וְשָׁלָם הַמִּלְחָמָה	לְשָׁנָה יָמִין	שָׁלֹשׁ:	כִּי	שָׁלֹשׁ:	פָּלָךְ	וְיָמַר
in the way	H1870	of David	H1732	and Solomon	H8010	years	H8141	for three
								H7969

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 12:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org