

2 Chronicles 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse;

Analysis

And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse;

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְיָקַח לְזִקְנָתָם אֲשֶׁר אֶת בַּת מִצְלָת מִהְלָת הַבָּתִים
 took H0 And Rehoboam to wife H853 him Mahalath the daughter H1323
 H3947 H7346 H802 H4258 H1323

וְיָקַח לְזִקְנָתָם אֲשֶׁר אֶת בַּת מִצְלָת מִהְלָת הַבָּתִים
 of Jerimoth the son of David and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son
 H3406 H1121 H1732 H32 H1323 H446 H1121

וְיָקַח לְזִקְנָתָם אֲשֶׁר אֶת בַּת מִצְלָת מִהְלָת הַבָּתִים
 of Jesse

וְיָקַח לְזִקְנָתָם אֲשֶׁר אֶת בַּת מִצְלָת מִהְלָת הַבָּתִים

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Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 16:6 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

1 Chronicles 27:18 (References David): Of Judah, Elihu, one of the brethren of David: of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael:

1 Samuel 17:28 (References David): And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

1 Samuel 17:13 (Parallel theme): And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.