

2 Chronicles 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.)

Analysis

And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.)

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

מְקֹל אֶבְשָׁל וּמְבָנֹת: מִעָּכָה הַבָּנִית בְּנָתָה אֶת רַחֲבָע מִן אֶת
loved And Rehoboam H853 Maachah daughters of Absalom H3605
H157 H7346 H4601 H1323 H53

וְשָׁמֹונָה הָנֶשֶׁר יָמִין וְשָׁמֹונָה הָנֶשֶׁר יָמִין וְשָׁמֹונָה הָנֶשֶׁר יָמִין
above all his wives and his concubines H3588 above all his wives and eight H802 H8083
H802 H6370 H802 H8083

וְשָׁמֹונָה הָנֶשֶׁר יָמִין וְשָׁמֹונָה הָנֶשֶׁר יָמִין וְשָׁמֹונָה הָנֶשֶׁר יָמִין
and eight sons and threescore daughters H1323 H8346 H8346 H1323
H8083 H1121 H8346 H1323

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 17:17 (Parallel theme): Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

1 Kings 11:3 (Parallel theme): And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

2 Samuel 5:13 (Parallel theme): And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.

Judges 8:30 (Parallel theme): And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.

2 Chronicles 11:23 (Parallel theme): And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance. And he desired many wives.

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