

2 Chronicles 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

Analysis

The epitaph on Rehoboam: 'And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.' This diagnosis reveals the root of evil actions - unprepared hearts. The verb 'prepared' (hekin) suggests deliberate, intentional orientation toward God. Failing to prepare one's heart to seek the LORD results in evil, even without specific intention. This teaches that spiritual drift and neglect are themselves sinful, not merely neutral. The heart requires active preparation - through prayer, Scripture, worship - to maintain God-seeking orientation. Christ calls disciples to watch and pray (Matthew 26:41) to avoid temptation, echoing this need for prepared hearts.

Historical Context

Rehoboam's reign (c. 930-913 BCE) began with foolish decisions causing kingdom division, included periods of idolatry and Egyptian invasion, yet showed moments of repentance (12:6,12). His inconsistency stemmed from unprepared heart - sometimes seeking God, often neglecting Him.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How are you actively 'preparing your heart' to seek the LORD daily, not just responding to crises?
2. What spiritual disciplines help prepare your heart to maintain God-seeking orientation rather than drifting into evil?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	עָרַב	כִּי	לֹא	יָכִין	לִבּוֹ	לְדַרְשׁ
And he did	evil	H3588	H3808	because he prepared	not his heart	to seek
H6213	H7451			H3559	H3820	H1875

אֶת	יְהוָה:
H853	the LORD
	H3068

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 19:3 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (References Lord): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (Parallel theme): Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Isaiah 45:19 (References Lord): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Psalms 78:37 (Parallel theme): For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.

Ezekiel 33:31 (Parallel theme): And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

2 Chronicles 11:16 (References Lord): And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 30:19 (References Lord): That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

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