

2 Chronicles 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

Analysis

Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Divine discipline for unfaithfulness, mercy through humility. 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וְשָׁמְעֵי הָרְבָּבָא בְּאַלְפָיְנָא
Shemaiah the prophet Then came
H8098 H5030 H935
אֶל רְחֹבָם וְרְאַבְנָן וְרְאַבְנָן
to Rehoboam and to the princes
H413 H7346 H8269

מִפְנֵי יְרֹשָׁלָם אֶל נְאָסָפָה וְיְהוָה הָיָה
of Judah H834 that were gathered together H622
H3063 H3389 H6440

שִׁשְׁקָה רְאַמְּרָה לְבָם אֶמְרָה כְּהֵן אֶמְרָה
of Shishak and said H0 H3541 and said H559
H7895 H559 H3068 H859

אַתְּ וְאַתְּ וְאַתְּ אַנְתִּי
Ye have forsaken H853 me and therefore have I also H637
H5800 H589 H5800

בְּ יָדְךָ אַתָּה שִׁשְׁקָה
you in the hand of Shishak
H3027 H7895

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 15:2 (References Lord): And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye

be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

2 Chronicles 11:2 (References Lord): But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

1 Kings 12:22 (Parallel theme): But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,