

2 Chronicles 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

Analysis

And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיִּבְרָא וַתִּ	יְהוָה ה	כִּי	נִכְנְעוּ ו	הָיָה
saw	And when the LORD	H3588	They have humbled	H1961
H7200	H3068		H3665	
דִּבְּרָ	יְהוָה ה	אֶל	שְׁמַעְיָה הן	לֵאמֹר ר
themselves the word	And when the LORD	H413	came to Shemaiah	saying
H1697	H3068		H8098	H559
נִכְנְעוּ ו	לֵא	אֲשַׁחֲיֵת ׀	וְנָתַתִּי י	
They have humbled	H3808	themselves therefore I will not destroy	them but I will grant	
H3665		H7843	H5414	
לָהֶם ׀	כְּמַעַט	לְפָלִיטָה ה	וְלֹא	תִתֵּן ׀
H1992	them some	deliverance	H3808	shall not be poured out
	H4592	H6413		H5413
וְחַמַּתִּי י	תִּתֵּן ׀	וְלֹא	לְפָלִיטָה ה	כְּמַעַט
and my wrath	shall not be poured out	H5413	deliverance	them some
H2534			H6413	H4592
בִּירוּשָׁלַם ׀	בְּיַד	שִׁישַׁק:		
upon Jerusalem	by the hand	of Shishak		
H3389	H3027	H7895		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 34:25 (Judgment): Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the

works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

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