

2 Chronicles 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.

Analysis

And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Covenant faithfulness brings victory despite odds. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

בְּבַבְּ קָרְבָּן וְבְּבַבְּ קָרְבָּן יְמִינֵךְ הָיָה
And they burn of the LORD burnt sacrifices every morning every morning

H6999 H3068 H5930 H1242 H1242

וְמִשְׁעָרָכְתָּן סְמִימִים וְקָטְרָתָן בְּבַבְּ רַב
and every evening and every evening incense and sweet

H6153 H6153 H7004 H5561 H4635

פָּשָׁלַט נְעָל לְקָרְבָּן וְרַטְבָּה
the shewbread table also set they in order upon the pure

H3899 H5921 H7979 H2889

בְּבַבְּ רַב לְבָעָר וְנִרְתָּת יְבָרְכָה בְּמִנְוֹךְ תְּ
and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof to burn and every evening

H4501 H2091 H5216 H1197 H6153

יְהִי הַמְשִׁמְמָה רְתָא אֶת אָנָּחָנוּ שְׁמָרֵי מִנְחָה
and every evening for we keep the charge of the LORD

H6153 H3588 H8104 H587 H853 H4931 H3068

אַתֶּן: עִזְבָּתְמִ אֱלֹהִים יְנַחֲזָה
our God but ye have forsaken

H430 H859 H5800 H853

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 2:4 (Sacrifice): Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

Exodus 29:38 (Sacrifice): Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually.

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