

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

וּמִקְטֹרֶיִם	יְהוָה ה	עַל זֹת	בְּבֹקֶר	בְּבֹקֶר
And they burn	of the LORD	burnt sacrifices	every morning	every morning
H6999	H3068	H5930	H1242	H1242
וּבְעֵרָב	וּבְעֵרָב	וּקְטֹרֶת	סַמִּים	וּמַעַרְכָּת
and every evening	and every evening	incense	and sweet	H4635
H6153	H6153	H7004	H5561	
לֶחֶם	עַל	הַשֻּׁלְחָן	הַטָּהוֹר	
the shewbread	H5921	table	also set they in order upon the pure	
H3899		H7979	H2889	
וּמִנְחֹת	הַזֶּה ב	וְנֵרוֹת יְהוָה	לְבַעַר	בְּעֵרָב
and the candlestick	of gold	with the lamps	thereof to burn	and every evening
H4501	H2091	H5216	H1197	H6153
וּבְעֵרָב	כִּי	שָׁמַר יִמּוֹ	אֶת	מִשְׁמַחַת
and every evening	H3588	for we keep	H587	H853
H6153		H8104		H4931
				יְהוָה ה
				of the LORD
				H3068
אֱלֹהֵינוּ	וְאַתָּה	עֲזַבְתָּ	אֹתָם	
our God	H859	but ye have forsaken	H853	
H430		H5800		

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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