

# 2 Chronicles 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour.

## Analysis

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**And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour.**

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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

גַּבְּ וּרְ	קִילָּה	מְלָכָם הַ	אַתְּ	אָבִי הַ	לִיאָסְ רַ
in array	And Abijah	H853	also set the battle	of valour	being mighty men
H631	H29		H4421	H2428	H1368
מְלָכָם הַ	אָרְבָּעָה	מֵאָה וּתְ	אַלְפָה	אַיִלָּה	מִירְבָּעָם
also set the battle	even four	hundred	thousand	men	chosen
H4421	H702	H3967	H505	H376	H977
עַמְּךָ	בְּשִׁמְׁוֹן הַ	מְלָכָם הַ	בְּשִׁמְׁוֹן הַ	מֵאָה וּתְ	אַלְפָה
in array	H5973	also set the battle	against him with eight	hundred	thousand
H6186		H4421	H8083	H3967	H505
אַיִלָּה	קִילָּה	מְלָכָם הַ	בְּשִׁמְׁוֹן הַ	מֵאָה וּתְ	אַלְפָה
men	chosen	being mighty men	of valour		
H376	H977	H1368	H2428		

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