

2 Chronicles 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.

Analysis

Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

לֹל אַתָּה	הַזְּחִתָּם	אַתָּה כֹה	יְהוָה הַ	אַתָּה כֹה
of them that are no	Have ye not cast out	H853	the priests	of the LORD
H3808	H5080	H3548	H3068	H853
בְּנֵי אַבְרָהָם	וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	לְכָמָד	כֹה	כֹה
himself with a young	of Aaron	and the Levites	and have made	the priests
H1121	H175	H3881	H6213	H3548
כְּעֵמִים	בְּאֶחָד	כָּל	בְּבָאָת	
after the manner of the nations	of other lands	H3605	so that whosoever cometh	
H5971	H776	H935		
לְמִלְלָה	בְּבָרְאָת	בְּבָרְאָת	שְׁבַע הַ	
to consecrate	bullock	himself with a young	rams	and seven
H4390	H6499	H1121	H1241	H7651
לֹל אַתָּה כֹה	לֹל אַתָּה כֹה			
אֱלֹהִים:	gods			
H1961	the priests	H3808	H430	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:11 (References God): Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.

Exodus 29:35 (Parallel theme): And thus shalt thou do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which I have commanded thee: seven days shalt thou consecrate them.

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