

2 Chronicles 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

Analysis

And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing National spiritual renewal through decisive reform. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְכָשָׁמַעַ	אָסָא	הַדְּבָרִים	הָאֵלֵּה	וְהַנְּבוּאָה	עֹדֵד
heard	And when Asa	these words		and the prophecy	of Oded
H8085	H609	H1697	H428	H5016	H5752
הַנְּבִיא	הִתְחַזַּק	וַעֲבַר	הַשְּׁקֻצִּים	מִכָּל	
the prophet	he took courage	and put away	the abominable idols		
H5030	H2388	H5674	H8251	H3605	
אֶרֶץ	יְהוּדָה	וּבִנְיָמִן	וּמִן	הָעָרִים	אֲשֶׁר
out of all the land	of Judah	and Benjamin		and out of the cities	
H776	H3063	H1144	H4480	H5892	H834
לָקַח	מִהָר	אֶפְרַיִם	וַיְחַדֵּשׁ	אֶת	מִזְבֵּחַ
which he had taken	from mount	Ephraim	and renewed		the altar
H3920	H2022	H669	H2318	H853	H4196
יְהוָה:	אֲשֶׁר	לִפְנֵי	אוֹלָם	יְהוָה:	
of the LORD		that was before	the porch	of the LORD	
H3068	H834	H6440	H197	H3068	

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 8:12 (Sacrifice): Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,

2 Chronicles 13:19 (Parallel theme): And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Beth-el with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

2 Chronicles 4:1 (Sacrifice): Moreover he made an altar of brass, twenty cubits the length thereof, and twenty cubits the breadth thereof, and ten cubits the height thereof.

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