

2 Chronicles 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

Analysis

And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Human alliances replacing trust in God. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְקָבְרָהּ הוּא	בְּקִבְרָתָהּ יוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	כָּרָה	לּוֹ
And they buried	him in his own sepulchres	H834	which he had made	H0
H6912	H6913		H3738	
בְּעַרְיָה	דָּוִד	וַשְׁכִּיבָהּ הוּא	בְּמִשְׁכָּב	אֲשֶׁר
for himself in the city	of David	and laid	him in the bed	H834
H5892	H1732	H7901	H4904	
מִלֵּא	בְּשִׁמְיָם	וּזְנֵי יָם	בְּמֶרְקַת חַת	
which was filled	with sweet odours	and divers kinds	by the apothecaries	
H4390	H1314	H2177	H4842	
בְּמֶרְקַת חַת	מַעֲשֵׂה	וַיַּעֲשׂוּ	לּוֹ	שֹׂרֵפָה
by the apothecaries	art	and they made	H0	burning
H4842	H4639	H8313	H8316	H1419
				גְּדוֹלָה
				H5704
לְמַאֲדָּה:				
a very				
H3966				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 50:2 (Parallel theme): And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel.

2 Chronicles 21:19 (Creation): And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

Jeremiah 34:5 (Parallel theme): But thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn odours for thee; and they will lament thee, saying, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD.

Mark 16:1 (Parallel theme): And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

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