

# 2 Chronicles 17:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

## Analysis

**And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.**

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Teaching God's law brings blessing and security. 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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## 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

וְבָאָר	וְת	יְהוּדָה	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	וּבְכָל	וְבְכָל	וְבְכָל
<b>And he placed</b>	<b>forces</b>	H3605	<b>and in the cities</b>	<b>of Judah</b>	<b>in all the fenced</b>		
H5414	H2428		H5892	H3063	H1219		
וְבָאָר	וְת	יְהוּדָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	בְּאֶרֶץ	וּבְכָל	וְבְכָל	אֶפְרַיִם
<b>And he placed</b>	<b>garrisons</b>	H5333	<b>in the land</b>	<b>of Judah</b>	<b>and in the cities</b>	<b>of Ephraim</b>	
H5414	H776	H3063	H5892	H669			
אָשָׁר	אָשָׁר	אָשָׁר	אָבִיו:	אָבִיו:	אָבִיו:	אָבִיו:	אָבִיו:
הָיָה	הָיָה	הָיָה	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת
<b>had taken</b>	<b>which Asa</b>	H3920	<b>his father</b>	H609	H1		
H834							

## Additional Cross-References

**2 Chronicles 15:8** (Parallel theme): 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.

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