

2 Chronicles 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

Analysis

Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

יָכֵן	יְהוָה ה	אֶת	הַמַּמְלָכָה	בְּיָד ו	וּבָרָא ו	כָּל
stablished	Therefore the LORD	H853	the kingdom	in his hand	brought	H3605
H3559	H3068		H4467	H3027	H5414	
יְהוּדָה ה	מִנְחָה ה	לִיהוֹשָׁפָט	וַיְהִי	ל ו	עָשָׂר	וְכָבֹד
and all Judah	presents	to Jehoshaphat	H1961	H0	and he had riches	and honour
H3063	H4503	H3092			H6239	H3519
לְרַב:						
in abundance						
H7230						

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 18:1 (Parallel theme): Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

Matthew 6:33 (Kingdom): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

1 Peter 5:10 (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Psalms 127:1 (References Lord): Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Job 42:12 (References Lord): So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

Matthew 2:11 (Parallel theme): And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and

when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

2 Chronicles 32:23 (Kingdom): And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

1 Samuel 10:27 (Parallel theme): But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

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