

2 Chronicles 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand.

Analysis

Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Danger of ungodly partnerships despite personal faithfulness. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אָרֶב עַם פְּנַבְּאִים	אַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל בֶּן-מֹלֵךְ יִהְיֶה	וַיִּקְרַב זֶה
four	of prophets	Therefore the king
H702	H5030	H4428
מֵאַת מִנְבָּאִים	אַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל בֶּן-מֹלֵךְ יִהְיֶה	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר
hundred	of Israel	gathered together
H3967	H853	H6908
אַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל בֶּן-מֹלֵךְ יִהְיֶה	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר
four	of prophets	Therefore the king
H702	H5030	H4428
וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר
to Ramothgilead	to Ramothgilead	to Ramothgilead
H7433	H413	H413
וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר
will deliver	will deliver	will deliver
H5414	H5927	H5927
וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר	וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר וְיִאָמֶר
for God	Therefore the king	Therefore the king
H430	H4428	H4428
hand	hand	hand
H3027	H4428	H4428
בְּנֵי דָבָר	בְּנֵי דָבָר	בְּנֵי דָבָר
Therefore the king	Therefore the king	Therefore the king
H4428	H4428	H4428

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