

2 Chronicles 19:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

Analysis

And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Establishing righteous judgment throughout the land. 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְהִנֵּה הַ	אֲמַרְיָה הוּא	כֹהֵן	הָרֵאשִׁית אִשׁ	עָלֶיךָ מִ	לְכָל ל
H2009	And behold Amariah	priest	the chief	H5921	H3605
	H568	H3548	H7218		
דָּבָר	וְהִנֵּה הַ	וְזַבְדִּי הוּא	בֶּן	יִשְׁמָעֵאל	
is over you in all matters	and the LORD	and Zebadiah	the son	of Ishmael	
H1697	H3068	H2069	H1121	H3458	
הַנֶּגֶד יָד	לְבַיִת	יְהוּדָה	לְכָל ל	דָּבָר	הָמָלֶךְ
the ruler	of the house	of Judah	H3605	is over you in all matters	for all the king's
H5057	H1004	H3063		H1697	H4428
וְשָׂטְרִים יִ	הַלְוִיִּם	לִפְנֵיךָ מִ	חֲזָק וְ	וְעָשׂוּ	וְיִהְיֶה י
shall be officers	also the Levites	before	courageously	you Deal	H1961
H7860	H3881	H6440	H2388	H6213	
וְהִנֵּה הַ	עִמָּם	הַטּוֹבִים:			
and the LORD	H5973	shall be with the good			
H3068		H2896			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 26:30 (Kingdom): And of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brethren, men of valour, a thousand and seven hundred, were officers among them

of Israel on this side Jordan westward in all the business of the LORD, and in the service of the king.

2 Chronicles 19:8 (References Lord): Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

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