

2 Chronicles 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.

Analysis

Jehoshaphat's charge to judges: 'And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.' This establishes theocratic judicial theology - human judges are God's representatives, exercising delegated authority. The phrase 'judge not for man, but for the LORD' removes human favoritism and accountability to political pressure. 'Who is with you in the judgment' promises divine presence in righteous judging and warns of divine witness to corruption. This anticipates Christ as ultimate judge and Paul's teaching that governing authorities are God's servants (Romans 13:1-4). All authority is delegated and accountable to God.

Historical Context

Jehoshaphat's judicial reforms (c. 872 BCE) decentralized justice while centralizing accountability to God. This system, though imperfect in practice, established biblical principles for government and justice that influenced Western legal traditions.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does viewing all authority as delegated from and accountable to God affect your exercise of responsibility?
2. In what areas of influence do you need to remember 'you judge not for man, but for the LORD'?

Interlinear Text

לֹא כִי עָשׂוּ אֵת מִה רְאוּ תִשְׁפֹּט וְאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר
And said H413 for ye judge H8199 Take heed H7200 H4100 H859 what ye do H6213 H3588 H3808
H559
וְעַמְּךָ מִלִּיהוָה כִּי תִשְׁפֹּט וְלֹאדָם
not for man H120 for ye judge H8199 H3588 but for the LORD H3068 H5973
H1697
בְּדָבָר מִשְׁפָּט:
who is with you in the judgment H4941

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:17 (Judgment): Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

Ecclesiastes 5:8 (Judgment): If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

1 Chronicles 28:10 (References Lord): Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

Luke 12:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Joshua 22:5 (References Lord): But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Leviticus 19:15 (Judgment): Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

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