

2 Chronicles 20:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

Analysis

And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing God fights for those who seek Him in crisis. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיָּבֹא א	וְהוֹשָׁפָט ט	וְעַמּוֹ	בְּזֶז ים	אֶת	הַשָּׁל ל
came	And when Jehoshaphat	and his people	in gathering	H853	of the spoil
H935	H3092	H5971	H962		H7998
וּמָצְאוּ	בָּהֶם	לָרַב	וְכִשְׁ		
of them they found	H0	among them in abundance	both riches		
H4672		H7230	H7399		
וּפְגָרִים	וְכָל י	חֲמֹד וְת	וַיִּנָּצַל ו	לָהֶם	
with the dead bodies	jewels	H2530	which they stripped off	H0	
H6297	H3627		H5337		
לֹא יוֹ	מִשָּׂא א	וְהִי ו	יָמֵי ים	שְׁלוֹשָׁה	
for themselves more than	they could carry away	H1961	days	and they were three	
H369	H4853		H3117	H7969	
בְּזֶז ים	אֶת	הַשָּׁל ל	כִּי	רַב	הוּא:
in gathering	H853	of the spoil	H3588	it was so much	H1931
H962		H7998		H7227	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 31:15 (Parallel theme): And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive?

Psalms 68:12 (Parallel theme): Kings of armies did flee apace: and she that tarried at home divided the spoil.

Proverbs 3:15 (Parallel theme): She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

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