

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's 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

Psalm 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

פָּשַׁל לְאַת בְּצִזְׁעִים וְעַמּוֹ וְעַמּוֹ יְהוָשָׁפָט וְיַבָּא
came And when Jehoshaphat and his people in gathering H853 of the spoil
H935 H3092 H5971 H962 H7998

וְרֹכֶשׁ וְשָׁמְצָאָו בְּצִבְּעָם לְרֹכֶשׁ וְשָׁמְצָאָו
of them they found H0 among them in abundance H7230 both riches
H4672 H0 H7399

לְהַבְּעָם וְיִנְאַל אֲבָל וְכָל וְסִגְרִים
with the dead bodies jewels H2530 which they stripped off H0
H6297 H3627 H5337

שְׁלֹשׁ הַיּוֹם וְתַהֲרֵי אֲמַשׁ אֲמַשׁ אֲמַשׁ
for themselves more than they could carry away H1961 days and they were three
H369 H4853 H1961 H3117 H7969

הָיוּא כִּי פָּשַׁל לְאַת בְּצִזְׁעִים
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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