

2 Chronicles 20:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD.

Analysis

And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיֵּלֶךְ	בְּדֶרֶךְ	אָבִיו	אָסָא	וְלֹא	סָר	מִמֶּנּוּ
H1980	in the way	his father	of Asa	H3808	and departed	H4480
	H1870	H1	H609		H5493	
לַעֲשׂוֹת	הַיָּשָׁר	בְּעֵינֵי	יְהוָה:			
not from it doing	that which was right	in the sight	of the LORD			
H6213		H3477	H5869			H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:21 (References Lord): For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

Psalms 36:3 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

1 Kings 15:11 (References Lord): And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father.