

# 2 Chronicles 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,

## Analysis

---

**And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,**

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Complete apostasy bringing divine judgment. 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

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## 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	מִכְתָּב ב אֱלִי	מֵאֵלֵי הו	הַנָּבִיא יא	אָמַר ר			
And there came	a writing	to him from Elijah	the prophet	Thus saith			
H935	H413 H4385	H452	H5030	H559			
כֹּה הוּא	אָמַר ר	יְהוָה ה	אֱלֹהֵי	דָּוִד יִכָּ	אָבִי יְכָ	תַּחַת	אֲשֶׁר ר
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	God	of David	thy father	H8478	H834
	H559	H3068	H430	H1732	H1		
לֹא	הָלַכְתָּ	וּבְדֹרֹכַי	יְהוֹשָׁפָט	אָבִי יְכָ			
H3808	Because thou hast not walked	in the ways	of Jehoshaphat	thy father			
	H1980	H1870	H3092	H1			
יְהוּדָה:	מֶלֶךְ אֲסָא	וּבְדֹרֹכַי					
in the ways	of Asa	king	of Judah				
H1870	H609	H4428	H3063				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**2 Kings 2:1** (References Lord): And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.