

2 Chronicles 21:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

Analysis

And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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 **לְיָמָיו**

H1961 H3117

And it came to pass that in process of time

וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים בְּקוֹלִי וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים בְּקוֹלִי
 And it came to pass that in process of time after the end

וַיָּבֹא	וַיְהִי	וַיִּשְׁלַח	וַיִּשְׁלַח	וַיִּשְׁלַח
And it came to pass	that in process of time	of two	after	his bowels
H3117	H8147	H3318	H4578	H5973

וּלְיָמֵי	וַיָּמָת	בַּתִּחְלָא יָמִים	רַב־יָמִים	וְלֹא	עָשָׂה	וַיַּעַשׂ
of sick	so he died	diseases	of sore	H3808	made	H0
H2483	H4191	H8463	H7451		H6213	

וְעַמּוֹ	כְּשֶׁרֶךְ לֵה	כְּשֶׁרֶךְ לֵה	אֲבוֹתָיו׃
And his people	for him like the burning	for him like the burning	of his fathers
H5971	H8316	H8316	H1

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 16:14 (Creation): And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.