

2 Chronicles 22:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.

Analysis

And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Evil family influence leading to destruction. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַיָּמָלְךָ	וְיֹשְׁבֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם	אֶת אֲחִיזָהּ הוּא בֶן הַקָּטָן
king	And the inhabitants	of Jerusalem
H4427	H3427	H3389
		H853
		Ahaziah
		H274
		son
		H1121
		his youngest
		H6996
וַיַּחֲזֶק	כָּל קְרֵאֵשִׁים	הָרַג גִּבּוֹר
H8478	H3588	H3605
	all the eldest	had slain
	H7223	H2026
		in his stead for the band of men
		H1416
הַבָּא	בְּעֶרְבֵי יָם	לַמַּחֲנֶה הַ
that came	with the Arabians	to the camp
H935	H6163	H4264
		king
		H4427
		Ahaziah
		H274
		son
		H1121
		of Jehoram
		H3088
וַיָּמָלְךָ	יְהוֹדָה:	
king	of Judah	
H4428	H3063	

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 33:25 (Kingdom): But the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

2 Chronicles 23:3 (Kingdom): And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David.

2 Chronicles 26:1 (Kingdom): Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

2 Chronicles 36:1 (Kingdom): Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem.

