

2 Chronicles 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.

Analysis

And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

מְתַחַב אֵת וַיַּבְקַשׁ	אָמַץ הָוֹת אֶת	וַיִּלְכַּד הָוֹת וְהַיְאֵת אֵת	מִתְחַבֵּב אֵת וְהַיְאֵת
And he sought H853	Ahaziah H274	and they caught H3920	him (for he was hid H2244
H1245		H3058	H2244
בְּשֻׁמֶר וְיִמְיתָהוּ	וְיִבָּא הָוֹת וְיִהְוֹא	וְיִמְתַּחַבֵּב אֵת וְיִהְוֹשָׁפָט	בְּשֻׁמֶר וְיִמְתַּחַבֵּב אֵת וְיִהְוֹשָׁפָט
in Samaria H8111	and brought H935	him to Jehu H413	and when they had slain H4191
		H3058	H4191
וְיִקְבַּר הָוֹת כִּי אָמַרְתָּ	בְּנֵי אָמַרְתָּ	בְּנֵי	וְיִהְשָׁפֵט אֵת
him they buried H3588	him Because said H559	they he is the son H1121	of Jehoshaphat H1931
H6912		H3605	H3092
אֲשֶׁר	אָמַר		
who sought H1875	the LORD H853	with all his heart H3824	So the house H1004
H834	H3068	H369	H1004
לְבַב וְ	בְּכָל	לְבַב וְ	לְבַב יְתִיאֵן
לְמַמְלָכָה:			וְאֵין
Ahaziah H274	to keep H6113	had no power H3581	So the house H1004
		H4467	
לְעֵצֶר אָמַץ הָוֹת	כִּי		