

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

וַיִּבְקֹשׁ	אֶת	אֲחִיָּז הוּא	וַלְכָד הוּא	וְהוּא	מִתְחַבֵּא א
And he sought	H853	Ahaziah	and they caught	H1931	him (for he was hid
H1245		H274	H3920		H2244
בְּשֹׁמֶר וּן	וַיָּבֵא הוּא	אֶל	יְהוֹא	וַיִּמְיָתוּהוּ	
in Samaria	and brought	H413	him to Jehu	and when they had slain	
H8111	H935		H3058	H4191	
וַקָּבְרָה הוּא	כִּי	אָמְרוּ	בֵּן	יְהוֹשָׁפָט ט	ה וְא
him they buried	H3588	him Because said	they he is the son	of Jehoshaphat	H1931
H6912		H559	H1121	H3092	
אֲשֶׁר	דָּבַשׁ	אֶת	יְהוָה ה	בְּכָל	לִבּוֹ ו
H834	who sought	H853	the LORD	H3605	with all his heart
	H1875		H3068	H3824	
אֲחִיָּז הוּא	לְעֹצֵר	כִּי	לִמְמַלְכָּהּ:		
Ahaziah	to keep	had no power	still the kingdom		
H274	H6113	H3581	H4467		