

2 Chronicles 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.

Analysis

And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Covenant restoration and righteous coup. 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

בָּשָׁנָה הַשְׁבֻעָה יְהוָה year And in the seventh	שְׁנִיתְעָזַרְתִּי כִּי strengthened	וְיְהוֹיָדָה עִזּוֹתָה Jehoiada himself and took	אֶת עִזּוֹתָה H853
H8141 H7637 H2388 H3077 H3947			
וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֶל יְרָמִים שָׁרֵי the captains of hundreds and Ishmael	וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי Azariah the son of Jeroham	וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי and Maaseiah	וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי and Obed
H8269 H3967 H5838 H1121 H3395 H4641			
וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי the son of Jehohanan Azariah the son of Zichri	וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי the son of Adaiah and Elishaphat	וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי the son of Zichri	וְלֹא־עָזַרְתִּי הָוּ בְּנֵי the son of Zichri
H1121 H3076 H5838 H1121 H5744 H5973 H1285			
בְּבְרִיתְנִי עִם זִכְרֵי בְּנֵי into covenant			

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