

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

אֶת	וְלָקַח	יְהוֹיָדָע	הִתְחַזַּק	הַשְּׁבַע יָת	וּבִשְׁנָה הַ
H853	himself and took	Jehoiada	strengthened	And in the seventh	year
	H3947	H3077	H2388	H7637	H8141
וְלִישְׁמַע אֶל	יֶרֶחַם	בֶּן	וְלִעֲזַרְיָה הוּא	הַמֵּא וְ	שָׂרֵי י
H3458	and Ishmael	of Jeroham	the son	Azariah	of hundreds
	H3395	H1121	H5838	H3967	H8269
מַעֲשֵׂי הוּא	וְאֶת עֹבֵד דָּ	בֶּן	וְלִעֲזַרְיָה הוּא	יְהוֹחָנָן	בֶּן
H4641	and Maaseiah	of Obed	the son	of Jehohanan	the son
	H853	H5744	H1121	H3076	H1121
בְּבְרִית:	עִמּוֹ	זִכְרִי י	בֶּן	אֶלִישָׁפָט	וְאֶת עַדִּי הוּא
H1285	into covenant	of Zichri	the son	and Elishaphat	of Adaiah
	H5973	H2147	H1121	H478	H5718
				H853	

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