

# 2 Chronicles 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.

## Analysis

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**And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.**

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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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עִמּוֹד֙ וְעַלְּ	עַמְּתָּה֙ דְּ	בְּמִלְּגָה֙	וְהִנֵּה֙ הַ	וְתַּחַתְּ	וְ	רַאְ
<b>And she looked</b>	H2009	<b>and behold the king</b>	H4428	<b>stood</b>	H5921	<b>at his pillar</b>
H7200			H5975		H5982	
בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	בְּחִצְּתָה וְ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	וְבְשָׂרָם וְ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	בְּמִלְּגָהְ	וְ
<b>at the entering in</b>		<b>and the princes</b>		<b>and the trumpets</b>	H5921	<b>and behold the king</b>
H3996		H8269		H2689		H4428
בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	וְתַּזְקֵעַ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ	בְּמִבְּבָשָׂה וְ
<b>and all the people</b>		<b>of the land</b>		<b>rejoiced</b>		<b>and sounded</b>
H3605	H5971	H776	H8056	H8628		H2689
בְּכָלְ	עַם	בְּכָלְ	בְּכָלְ	בְּכָלְ	בְּכָלְ	בְּכָלְ
<b>also the singers</b>	<b>with instruments</b>		<b>of musick</b>		<b>and such as taught</b>	<b>to sing praise</b>
H7891	H3627		H7892		H3045	H1984
קָשָׁרְ	וְתַּחַקֵּב עָ	בְּגִדְיָה	אֶת עַתְלִי הָוֶה	וְתַּחַקֵּב עָ	לְפָלָל	וְתַּזְדִּיעַ יִם
<b>Treason</b>		<b>her clothes</b>		<b>and said</b>		<b>and such as taught</b>
H7195	H899	H559	H853	H6271	H7167	H7891
קָשָׁרְ	וְתַּחַקֵּב עָ	בְּגִדְיָה	אֶת עַתְלִי הָוֶה	וְתַּחַקֵּב עָ	לְפָלָל	וְתַּזְדִּיעַ יִם