

# 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

**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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וַתֵּרָא	וַהֲנֶה הַמֶּלֶךְ	עָלַ עֹמֵד ד	עַמּוּד ו			
And she looked	and behold the king	stood	at his pillar			
H7200	H2009 H4428	H5975	H5921 H5982			
בְּמַבּוֹא	וְהַשָּׂרִים	בְּחֹצֵצֹת וַתֵּ	עַל הַמֶּלֶךְ			
at the entering in	and the princes	and the trumpets	and behold the king			
H3996	H8269	H2689	H5921 H4428			
וְכָל	עַם	הָאָרֶץ	שִׂמְּחוּ	וַתִּזְקַע	בְּחֹצֵצֹת וַתֵּ	
and all the people	of the land	rejoiced	and sounded	and the trumpets		
H3605	H5971	H776	H8056	H8628	H2689	
וְהַמְשֻׁבְּרִים	בְּכֵלֵי י	הַשִּׁיר	וּמוֹדִיעֵי ים	לְהִלֵּל		
also the singers	with instruments	of musick	and such as taught	to sing praise		
H7891	H3627	H7892	H3045	H1984		
וַתִּקַּח	עַתְלֵי הוּא	אֶת	בְּגָדֵי יָהּ	וַתֹּאמֶר	קִשְׁרָה:	קִשְׁרָה:
rent	Then Athaliah	H853	her clothes	and said	Treason	Treason
H7167	H6271		H899	H559	H7195	H7195