

2 Chronicles 23:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of the LORD.

Analysis

Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of the LORD.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

בְּמָא וְתַנְא	שָׁר	אֶת	הַכֹּהֶן	וְהַזָּהָר ע	וְהַזָּהָר וְ
brought out	Then Jehoiada	For the priest	H853	the captains	of hundreds
H3318	H3077	H3548		H8269	H3967
פְּקָדָה	אֶלְקָדָה	אֶלְקָדָה	אֶלְקָדָה	אֶל	אֶל
that were set over	the host	and said	H413	brought out	H413
H6485	H2428	H559		H3318	
בַּיִת	בַּשְׁדָר וְת	וְתַבְעָה	וְתַבְעָה יְה	תִּמְתִּית וְ	תִּמְתִּית וְ
her not in the house	H7713	and whoso followeth	H935	H310	Slay
H1004					H4191
בַּיִת	בַּשְׁדָר וְת	וְתַבְעָה	וְתַבְעָה יְה	תִּמְתִּית וְ	תִּמְתִּית וְ
with the sword	H3588	and said	H3548	H3808	Slay
H2719	H559				H4191
בַּיִת	בַּשְׁדָר וְת	וְתַבְעָה	וְתַבְעָה יְה	תִּמְתִּית וְ	תִּמְתִּית וְ
her not in the house	of the LORD				
H1004	H3068				