

2 Chronicles 23:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

Analysis

And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

מִזְכָּר	תִּזְכֶּר	בְּרִית	בֵּין	וּבֵין	כָּל
made	And Jehoiada	a covenant			
H3772	H3077	H1285	H996	H996	H3605
לְעֵד			לְעֵד	לְעֵד	לְהַזִּיר
between him and between all the people			H996	and between the king	H1961
H5971				H4428	
לְעֵד			לְהַזִּיר:		
between him and between all the people		that they should be the LORD'S			
H5971		H3068			

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:38 (Covenant): And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.

2 Kings 11:17 (Covenant): And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD'S people; between the king also and the people.

2 Chronicles 29:10 (Covenant): Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.