

2 Chronicles 23:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of the LORD: and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.

Analysis

And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of the LORD: and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וָקַח ח	אֶת	שָׂרֵי י	הַמֵּא וְ	וְאֶת	הָאֲדִירִים	וְאֶת
And he took	H853	the captains	of hundreds	H853	and the nobles	H853
H3947		H8269	H3967		H117	
הַמֹּשְׁלִים		עַם	וְאֵת	כָּל	עַם	הָאֶרֶץ
and the governors		and all the people	H853	H3605	and all the people	of the land
H4910		H5971			H5971	H776
וַיּוֹרֵד	אֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	בֵּית	יְהוָה	וַיָּבֹאוּ	
and brought down	H853	into the king's	from the house	of the LORD	and they came	
H3381		H4428	H1004	H3068	H935	
בְּתוֹךְ	שַׁעַר	הַעֲלִיּוֹן	בֵּית	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיִּשֶׁב יוֹשֵׁב	אֶת
through	gate	the high	from the house	into the king's	and set	H853
H8432	H8179	H5945	H1004	H4428	H3427	
הַמֶּלֶךְ	עַל	כִּסֵּא	הַמַּמְלָכָה:			
into the king's	H5921	upon the throne	of the kingdom			
H4428		H3678	H4467			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 11:19 (Kingdom): And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the

king from the house of the LORD, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings.

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