

2 Chronicles 24:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

Analysis

Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Initial faithfulness deteriorating after mentor's death. 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וְהָיָה י'	בְּעֵת	וַיָּבֹא	אֶת	הָאָרֹן	אֶל
H1961			H853		H413
Now it came to pass that at what time					
	H6256	H935		H727	
פָּקִיד ת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	בְּיָד	הַלְוִיִּם	וַיִּרְאוּ	כִּי
H6486	H4428	H3027	H3881	H7200	H3588
office the king's by the hand of the Levites and when they saw					
כִּי הָיָה	וַיָּבֹא	סוֹפֵר	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וּפְקִיד	כֹּהֵן
that there was much money came scribe the king's officer priest's					
H7227	H3701	H935	H5608	H4428	H6496
					H3548
וְהָיָה	וַיִּפְּרוּ	אֶת	הָאָרֹן	וַיִּשָּׂא	וַיִּשִּׁיב
H7218	H6168	H853	H727	H5375	H7725
and the high and emptied the chest and took again					
מִקְוָה	כֹּה	עָשׂוּ	בְּיָד	בְּיָד	וַיִּגְבְּרוּ
H4725	H3541	H6213	H3117	H3117	H622
it to his place Thus they did by day by day and gathered money					
					H3701
לְרַב:					
in abundance					
H7230					