

2 Chronicles 24:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

Analysis

And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְקִבְצָוָה	אַתָּה	פְּקֻדָּה	יְמִינָה	פְּלִימָה	לֹא	מִן	וְאָמַר
And he gathered together	H853	the priests	H3548	Howbeit the Levites	H3881	and said	H0
	H6908		H3063		H6908		H559
מִכָּל	וְקִבְצָוָה	וְיְהוָה	לָעֵד	וְאַתָּה	מִכָּל	וְבָשַׂר	מִדָּךְ
to them Go out	H3318	unto the cities	H5892	of Judah	H3063	And he gathered together	H3605
							H6908
בְּשַׁנְתַּה	מִדָּךְ	אֱלֹהִים	מִן	אַתָּה	לְפָנֵי	בְּשַׁנְתַּה	מִדָּךְ
of all Israel	H3478	money	H3701	to repair	H2388	the house	H853
							H1004
וְשַׁבָּא	לְפָנֵי	אֱלֹהִים	מִן	בְּית	אַתָּה	לְפָנֵי	וְשַׁבָּא
to year	H8141		H859		H430		H8141
וְלֹא	לְדַבֵּר	מִבְּרֵר	וְאַתָּה	בְּשַׁנְתַּה	אַתָּה	לְדַבֵּר	וְלֹא
בְּשַׁנְתַּה	וְאַתָּה	מִבְּרֵר	וְאַתָּה	בְּשַׁנְתַּה	וְאַתָּה	לְדַבֵּר	וְלֹא
and see that ye hasten	H4116	Howbeit the Levites	H3881				