

2 Chronicles 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.

Analysis

And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Half-hearted obedience and pride's consequences. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

יְהוּדָה	מֶלֶךְ	אֶמְצִי הוּא	אֶל	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	מֶלֶךְ	יוֹאָשׁ שׁ	שׁ לַח
	king	to Amaziah	H413	of Israel	king	And Joash	sent
	H4428	H558		H3478	H4428	H3101	H7971
הָאֵץ הַזֶּה	אֶל שׁ לַח	בְּלִבְנֹן וְ	אָשׁ ר	הַחֹמֶץ:	לֵאמֹר ר		
	sent	that was in Lebanon	H834	The thistle	saying		
	H413	H3844		H2336	H559		
לִבְנִי י	בִּתְּךָ	אֶת	תְּנֶה	לֵאמֹר ר	בְּלִבְנֹן וְ	אָשׁ ר	
	thy daughter	H853	Give	saying	that was in Lebanon	H834	
	H1323		H5414	H559	H3844		
בְּלִבְנֹן וְ	אָשׁ ר	הַשָּׂדֶה	חַיֵּית	וַתַּעֲבֹר ר	לְאִשָּׁה		
	H834	a wild	H7704	and there passed by	to wife		
				H5674	H802		
	that was in Lebanon						
	H3844						
הַחֹמֶץ:	אֶת	וַתֵּרֶם ס					
The thistle	H853	and trode down					
H2336		H7429					