

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

יְהוָה	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה	אֶמְצֵى	הַו	אֶל	יְשָׁבָא	לְ	מֶלֶךְ	יוֹאָשׁ	שַׁלַּח	לְ
sent	And Joash	king	of Israel	H413	to Amaziah	king	of Judah				
H7971	H3101	H4428	H3478		H558	H4428	H3063				
בְּלֹבֶן וְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּחִזּוּמָה:	לְאָמֵן רְ					בְּלֹבֶן וְ	אֲלֵל	שַׁלַּח	לְ
saying	The thistle	H834	that was in Lebanon	H3844	sent	H413	to the cedar				
H559	H2336				H7971		H730				
לְבָנִי	בְּתָבָרָה	לְבָנִי	לְאָמֵן רְ	בְּלֹבֶן וְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּתָבָרָה	לְבָנִי	בְּתָבָרָה	בְּתָבָרָה	לְבָנִי	לְ
			saying		Give	H853	thy daughter	to my son			
H834	that was in Lebanon	H3844	H559	H5414	H853	H1323	H1121				
בְּלֹבֶן וְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשִׁדָּה	בְּשִׁדָּה					בְּלֹבֶן וְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשִׁדָּה	בְּ
לְאָשֶׁר הָ	תִּתְעַבֵּר	רְ	רְ					that was in Lebanon			
to wife	and there passed by	beast	a wild	H834				H3844			
H802	H5674	H2416	H7704								
פְּחָזּוּמָה:	אֶת	וַתִּתְרַמֵּס	וַתִּתְרַמֵּס								
and trod down	H853	The thistle									
H7429		H2336									

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