

2 Chronicles 25:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

Analysis

And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְהוֹאֵחַ ז	בֶּן	יוֹאֵשׁ	בֶּן	יְהוֹדָה הַמֶּלֶךְ	אַמְצִי הוּא	וְאֵת
of Jehoahaz	the son	And Joash	the son	king of Judah	Amaziah	H853
H3059	H1121	H3101	H1121	H4428	H558	
וַיְבִיֵּא הוּא	שָׁמָּה	בְּבֵית יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְמֶלֶךְ	יוֹאֵשׁ	תָּפַשׁ	שׁ
and brought	at Bethshemesh	of Israel	king	And Joash	took	
H935	H1053	H0	H4428	H3101	H8610	
שֶׁן עֵר	יְרוּשָׁלַם	בְּחוֹמֹת	וַיִּפֹּרֵץ	יְרוּשָׁלַם		
from the gate	him to Jerusalem	the wall	and brake down	him to Jerusalem		
H8179	H3389	H2346	H6555	H3389		
אַמָּה:	מֵאֹת	אַרְבַּע	הַפֹּנֶה הַ	שֶׁן עֵר	עַד	אֶפְרַיִם
cubits	hundred	four	to the corner	from the gate		of Ephraim
H520	H3967	H702	H6437	H8179	H5704	H669

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 8:16 (Parallel theme): So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

2 Chronicles 21:17 (Kingdom): And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons

also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

Jeremiah 31:38 (Parallel theme): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.

Nehemiah 12:39 (Parallel theme): And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.

2 Chronicles 22:1 (Kingdom): And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.

2 Chronicles 26:9 (References Jerusalem): Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.