

# 2 Chronicles 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

## Analysis

**But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.**

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**

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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**

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאַתָּה	וּבְנִים	לֹא	יְמֻתָּה	כִּי	כְּכֹתֶב	בְּתוּךְ	ה
H853	for the children	H3808	But he slew	H3588	but did as it is written	H3789	in the law
H1121		H4191				H3789	H8451
לֹא	לְאַמְרֵר	יְהִי הָ	צְוָה	אָשֶׁר	מֹשֶׁה	בְּסַפֵּר	לֹא
in the book	of Moses	H834	commanded	where the LORD	saying	H3808	H3808
H5612	H4872	H6680	H3068	H3068	H559		
לֹא	וּבְנִים	עַל	אָב וָתָ	יְמֻתָּה	וּבְנִים	לֹא	יְמֻתָּה
But he slew	The fathers	H5921	for the children	for the children	H3808	But he slew	
H4191	H1	H1121	H1121	H3808	H4191		
עַל	אָב וָתָ	כִּי	אָשֶׁר	בְּחֻטָּאת	יְמֻתָּה		
H5921	The fathers	H3588	but every man	for his own sin	But he slew		
H1		H376		H2399	H4191		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 24:16** (Sin): The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

**Ezekiel 18:20** (Sin): The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the

righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

**Ezekiel 18:4** (Sin): Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

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