

2 Chronicles 25:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.

Analysis

Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיִּקְבְּץ	אֶמְצִי הוּא	יְהוּדָה הָאֵת	וַעֲמִידָם	לְבֵית	
gathered	Moreover Amaziah	H853 Judah	and made	according to the houses	
H6908	H558	H3063	H5975	H1004	
אֲבֹתָם	וְלִשְׂרֵי	אֶלְפֵי	וְלִשְׂרֵי	מֵאָה וְ	לְכָל
of their fathers	and captains	over thousands	and captains	hundred	H3605
H1	H8269	H505	H8269	H3967	
יְהוּדָה	וּבִנְיָמִן	וַיִּפְקֹדֵם	לְמִבָּן	עֶשְׂרִים יָמִים	שָׁנָה
Judah	and Benjamin	and he numbered	old	them from twenty	years
H3063	H1144	H6485	H1121	H6242	H8141
וּמִעַלָּהּ	וַיִּמְצָאֵם	שְׁלֹשָׁה	מֵאָה וְ	אֶלְפֵי	בְּחֹר
and above	and found	them three	hundred	over thousands	choice
H4605	H4672	H7969	H3967	H505	H977
יֹצֵאֵם	צָבָא	אֵלֶּי ז	רֶמֶחַ	וְצִנָּה:	
men able to go forth	to war	that could handle	spear	and shield	
H3318	H6635	H270	H7420	H6793	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:3 (Parallel theme): From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

2 Chronicles 11:1 (Parallel theme): And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam.

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