

2 Chronicles 28:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.

Analysis

For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Total rejection of God bringing catastrophic judgment. 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְאֵת בָּהּ	אֱלֹהִים	דְּרִמְשָׁךְ	הַמִּכְ יָמִים	בָּזְ
For he sacrificed	Because the gods	of Damascus	which smote	H0
H2076	H430	H1834	H5221	
וְאֵת בָּהּ וְאֵת אָמַר	אֱלֹהִים מֶלֶךְ	אֶתְםָ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	
him and he said	Because the gods of the kings	of Syria	help	
H559	H430	H4428	H758	H5826
לְבָהָר אֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	לְבָהָר אֵת בָּזְ	
H853	H0	For he sacrificed	help	H0
		H2076	H1992	H1961
לְבָהָר אֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	לְבָהָר אֵת בָּזְ	
me But they were the ruin	H3605	of him and of all Israel	H3478	
H3782				
וְאֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	וְאֵת בָּזְ	
me But they were the ruin	H3605	of him and of all Israel	H3478	
H3782				

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 25:14 (References God): Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.