

2 Chronicles 28:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.

Analysis

Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְנִתַּן	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיו	בְּיָד		
And he was also delivered	Wherefore the LORD	his God	him into the hand		
H5414	H3068	H430	H3027		
מֶלֶךְ	אֲרָם	וַיִּסְמֹךְ	בּוֹ	וַיִּשָּׂב וַיִּחַבְּ	מִמֶּנּוּ
of the king	of Syria	and they smote	H0	him and carried away	H4480
H4428	H758	H5221		H7617	
שְׁבִיָּה	גְּדוּלָּה:	וַיָּבֵא יֵאוֹ	דֶּרֶם שָׁק	וְגַם	
of them captives	a great multitude	and brought	them to Damascus		H1571
H7633	H1419	H935	H1834		
בְּיָד	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְנִתַּן	וַיִּסְמֹךְ	
him into the hand	of the king	of Israel	And he was also delivered	and they smote	
H3027	H4428	H3478	H5414	H5221	
בּוֹ	מַכָּה	גְּדוּלָּה:			
H0	slaughter	a great multitude			
	H4347	H1419			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of

Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.

2 Chronicles 24:24 (References God): For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

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