

2 Chronicles 29:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

Analysis

Hezekiah's charge to the Levites 'My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense' recalls priests to their covenant calling. After Ahaz's apostasy, the temple was defiled and worship ceased. Hezekiah's reforms begin with restoring proper worship and reminding Levites of their divine election ('the LORD hath chosen you'). The threefold description of priestly duty - stand before, serve, minister - emphasizes worship's sacred privilege and responsibility. This points to New Testament believers who are chosen as royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9) to offer spiritual sacrifices.

Historical Context

Hezekiah's reforms (c. 715 BCE) reversed his father Ahaz's wickedness, which included closing the temple and promoting idolatry. The Levites' response (29:12-19) demonstrated that even after apostasy, faithful remnants remain who respond to calls for renewal.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How might you be 'negligent' in your calling as part of God's chosen priesthood of believers?
2. What does it mean practically to 'stand before God' and 'serve Him' in your daily life?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י	עַתָּה ה	אַל	תִּשְׁל ו	כִּי	בְּכֶם	ר
My sons	H6258	H408	be not now negligent	H3588	H0	hath chosen
H1121			H7952			H977
יְהוָה ה	לָעֹמֵד	לִפְנֵי	מִשְׁחָת ים	וְלֵהִי זֹת		
for the LORD	you to stand	before	him and that ye should minister			H1961
H3068	H5975	H6440	H8334			
ל ו	מִשְׁחָת ים	וּמִקְטָרִים:				
H0	him and that ye should minister	unto him and burn incense				
	H8334	H6999				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:8 (References Lord): At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.