

2 Chronicles 29:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah:

Analysis

Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah:

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Comprehensive restoration of worship beginning immediately. 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

וַיַּאֲלֵ אַמְשֵׁי וְיַעֲלֵ מִתְּלִיּוֹת בְּלִיּוֹת מִתְּלִיּוֹת

arose Then the Levites Mahath and of the sons of Amasai and Joel

H6965

H3881

H4287

H1121

H6022

H3100

וְמִן בְּקָרְבָּתִי בְּנֵי בְּנֵי וְמִן

and of the sons and Azariah of the Kohathites H4480

H1121

H5838

H1121

H6956

בְּנֵי מִרְאֵי שְׁלֵשׁ בְּנֵי עֲבָדִי הַזָּרְעָרִי וְאֶזְרָרִי

and of the sons of Merari of Abdi and Azariah

H1121

H4847

H7027

H1121

H5660

H5838

בְּנֵי יְפָלָלֵא לְמִן יְפָלָלֵא בְּנֵי רָשְׁבֵי וְאֶחָד

and of the sons of Jehalelel and of the Gershonites Joah and of the sons

H1121

H3094

H1649

H3098

H1121

וְאֶחָד בְּנֵי זִמְמָה וְאֶחָד בְּנֵי יְהָנֵן וְאֶחָד

of Zimmah and Eden and of the sons Joah

H2155

H5731

H1121

H3098