

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיָּאָזַל	לְעַמָּשַׁי	וְיֹאֵל	בְּנֵי	מַחַת	הַלְוִיִּם	וַיָּקֶם מוֹ
arose	of Amasai	and Joel	and of the sons	Mahath	Then the Levites	
H6965	H6022	H3100	H1121	H4287	H3881	H6965
וּמִן	הַקֹּהֲתִי	בְּנֵי	מִן	וְעֶזְרָה הוּא	בְּנֵי	
	of the Kohathites	and of the sons		and Azariah	and of the sons	
H4480	H6956	H1121	H4480	H5838	H1121	
וְעֶזְרָה הוּא	עַבְדֵי י	בְּנֵי	קִישׁ	מֶרָרִי	בְּנֵי	
and Azariah	of Abdi	and of the sons	Kish	of Merari	and of the sons	
H5838	H5660	H1121	H7027	H4847	H1121	
וּמִן	הַגֵּרְשֹׁנִי	יֹאחָז:	בְּנֵי	יְהִלְלֵאל ל	בְּנֵי	
	and of the Gershonites	Joah	and of the sons	of Jehalelel	and of the sons	
H4480	H1649	H3098	H1121	H3094	H1121	
יֹאחָז:	בְּנֵי	וְעֵדֶן	זִמְחָה	בְּנֵי		
Joah	and of the sons	and Eden	of Zimmah	and of the sons		
H3098	H1121	H5731	H2155	H1121		