

2 Chronicles 29:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

Analysis

Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיִּתְחִלּוּ	בְּאַחַד ד	לַח דָּשׁ	קֶרֶאשׁ וֶן	וַיִּקְדָּשׁ ו	וְבִי וֹם
Now they began	on the first	month	day of the first	so they sanctified	day
H2490	H259	H2320	H7223	H6942	H3117
שְׁמוֹנֶה ה	לַח דָּשׁ	בָּאוּ	לְאוֹלָם	יְהוָה ה	
and on the eighth	month	came	they to the porch	of the LORD	
H8083	H2320	H935	H197	H3068	
וַיִּקְדָּשׁ ו	אֶת	בֵּית	יְהוָה ה	וְבִי וֹם	שְׁמוֹנֶה ה
so they sanctified	H853	the house	of the LORD	day	and on the eighth
H6942		H1004	H3068	H3117	H8083
וְבִי וֹם	שֶׁשֶׁ ה	עָשָׂה ר	לַח דָּשׁ	קֶרֶאשׁ וֶן	כָּלּוּ:
day	and in the sixteenth	H6240	month	day of the first	they made an end
H3117	H8337		H2320	H7223	H3615

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org