

2 Chronicles 29:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.

Analysis

But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.

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

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

לֹבֶשׁ	יְה	יָכֹל	וְ	אֵל	לְמַעַט	ט	פִּי	וְ	מִפְּקָדִים:	בְּקָר
H7535	But the priests	H1961	were too few	H3808	so that they could	H3201	not flay	H6584		
	H3548		H4592		H2388		H251			
כָּל	אֶת	כָּל	וְתַ	כָּל	וְתַ	יִמְצָא	וְמִ	אֲחִיכָּה	מִ	פָּלִים
H853	H3605	all the burnt offerings	H5930		H2388		H251	wherefore their brethren	H3881	
עַד	וְתַ	כָּל	וְתַ	כָּל	וְתַ	לְהַתְקִדֵּשׁ	שֶׁ	וְעַד	מִפְּקָדִים:	כִּי
H5704	was ended	them till the work	H4399		H5704	had sanctified	H3548	But the priests	H3588	
	H3615					H6942				
פָּלִים	מִ	מִפְּקָדִים:	לְהַתְקִדֵּשׁ	שֶׁ	לְבָב	יִשְׁרָאֵל	וְ	מִפְּקָדִים:	לְהַתְקִדֵּשׁ	שֶׁ
H3881			H3477		H3824		H6942		H3548	

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 35:11 (Parallel theme): And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.

2 Chronicles 30:3 (Holy): For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.

