

2 Chronicles 30:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

Analysis

Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Joy of renewed worship despite irregularities. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

הָעֵת H6258	אֵל H408	תְּקַנֵּשׁ Now be ye not stiffnecked H7185	עֲרָפָךְ as your fathers H6203	כִּאֵבּוֹתִיכְכֶם were but yield H1	תְּנוּ H5414
עַצְמֹתֶיכֶם yourselves H3027	הָרָא the LORD H3068	וְהִשְׁבַּתְנָה and enter H935	לִמְקָדְשׁוֹ into his sanctuary H4720	אֲשֶׁר H834	
הַקָּדֵשׁ which he hath sanctified H6942	לְעוֹלָם for ever H5769	וְעַבְדָו and serve H5647	אֶת H853	יְהִי הָרָא the LORD H3068	אֱלֹהִיכְמֶה your God H430
בְּאֵשׁ may turn away H7725	מִכֶּם H4480	סְרִירָה that the fierceness H2740	אַפְּנֵי of his wrath H639		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 32:9 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

2 Chronicles 29:10 (Judgment): Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

Deuteronomy 10:16 (Parallel theme): Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.