

# 2 Chronicles 31:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.

## Analysis

**And Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.**

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Thorough removal of idolatry and support for priesthood. 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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## 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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וְיֹזָבָד	וִירִימֹת	וְעֲשָׂהָא	וְנָחַת	וְעֲזַזְיָהוּ	וְיֵחִיָּאל
and Jozabad	and Jerimoth	and Asahel	and Nahath	and Azaziah	And Jehiel
H3107	H3406	H6214	H5184	H5812	H3171
פְּקִידֵי יָם	וּבְנֵי הוּ	וּמַחַת	וְיִסְמַחְיָהוּ	וְאֵלִיָּאל	לְ
were overseers	and Benaiah	and Mahath	and Ismachiah	and Eliel	
H6496	H1141	H4287	H3253	H447	
בְּמִפְקֹד	אָחִיו	וְשִׁמְעִי	כֹּנַנְיָהוּ	מִיַּד	
at the commandment	his brother	and Shimei	of Cononiah	under the hand	
H4662	H251	H8096	H3562	H3027	
הָאֱלֹהִים:	בֵּית	נָגִיד	וְעֲזַרְיָהוּ	הַמֶּלֶךְ	יְחִזְקִיָּהוּ
of God	of the house	the ruler	and Azariah	the king	of Hezekiah
H430	H1004	H5057	H5838	H4428	H3169