

2 Chronicles 31:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps.

Analysis

And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps.

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וּבְנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	יְהוּדָה	הַיּוֹשְׁבִים	בְּעָרֵי י
And concerning the children	of Israel	and Judah	that dwelt	in the cities
H1121	H3478	H3063	H3427	H5892
יְהוּדָה	וּמַעֲשֵׂה ר	בָּקָר	וְצֹאֵן	וּמַעֲשֵׂה ר
and Judah	and the tithe	of oxen	and sheep	and the tithe
H3063	H1571 H1992	H4643	H1241	H6629 H4643
קֹדֶשׁ יִם	הַמְּקֻדָּשׁ יִם	לִיהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	
of holy things	which were consecrated	unto the LORD	their God	
H6944	H6942	H3068	H430	
הֵב יֹאֵו	וָתַנּוּ ו	עֲרֵמֹת:	עֲרֵמֹת:	
they also brought in	and laid	them by heaps	them by heaps	
H935	H5414	H6194	H6194	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 27:30 (Holy): And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

Deuteronomy 14:28 (Parallel theme): At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

