

2 Chronicles 32:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.

Analysis

He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing God's deliverance of the faithful; pride's danger even after blessing. 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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

זָעַם	עִם	שָׁרִי	יִגְבַּעַת	לִסְטוּם	אֶת
He took counsel	with his princes	and his mighty men	to stop		
H3289	H5973	H8269	H1368	H5640	H853
מִימִתִּים	וְתַּחַת	אֲשֶׁר	מִן־זֶה	לְעִיר	
the waters	of the fountains	H834	which were without	the city	
H4325	H5869		H2351	H5892	
: וְיַעֲזַרְתָּם					
and they did help					
H5826					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 24:6 (Parallel theme): For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22 (Parallel theme): Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 20:18 (Parallel theme): Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.