

2 Chronicles 33:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah.

Analysis

Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing God's mercy even to the worst sinner who truly repents. 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 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

וְאַחֲרָיִם	כִּי	בָנָה	חוֹמָה	הֵן	חֵיצוֹן	יָמָיו	יְדִידָיו
Now after this	H3651	he built	a wall	without	cities	of David	
H310		H1129	H2346	H2435	H5892	H1732	
מִמַּעַרְבָהּ	לְגִיחַ	וּן	בֵּין	חַל	וְלָב	וְאֵל	בֵּשֶׁר
on the west side	of Gihon		in the valley	even to the entering in	gate		
H4628	H1521		H5158	H935	H8179		
הַדָּגִים	וְסָבַב	לְעֹפֶל	וְגִבִּיָּהּ	וְרָאָהּ	מְאֹד		
at the fish	and compassed	about Ophel	and raised it up	a very great height			
H1709	H5437	H6077	H1361	H3966			
וַיִּשֶׂם	שָׂרֵי	חַיִּל	בְּכָל	יָמָיו	הַבָּצָר	וְהַיְּהוּדָה	
and put	captains	of war	H3605	cities	in all the fenced	of Judah	
H7760	H8269	H2428		H5892	H1219	H3063	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:3 (Parallel theme): But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

1 Kings 1:33 (Parallel theme): The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:

2 Chronicles 27:3 (Parallel theme): He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and on the wall of Ophel he built much.

Nehemiah 12:39 (Parallel theme): And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.

Zephaniah 1:10 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills.

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