

2 Chronicles 34:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

Analysis

Young King Josiah's faithfulness is described: 'And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.' Beginning his reign at age 8, Josiah's spiritual integrity came through divine grace, not family influence (his father Amon and grandfather Manasseh were wicked). The phrase 'declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left' echoes Deuteronomic covenant faithfulness (Deuteronomy 5:32). Following 'David his father' skips intervening generations to return to the covenant ideal. This demonstrates God's sovereign grace in raising up faithful leaders even from ungodly lineage, pointing to Christ, the Son of David who perfectly walks God's ways.

Historical Context

Josiah's reign (640-609 BCE) marked Judah's last great reform before Babylonian exile. His discovery of the Law scroll (34:14-33) sparked revival, showing that God's Word has power even when neglected for generations. His death fighting Egypt (35:20-24) ended the reform movement.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Josiah's faithfulness despite ungodly parents encourage those from difficult family backgrounds?
2. What does 'declining neither right nor left' from God's Word look like in your daily decisions and priorities?

Interlinear Text

וְעָשָׂ	רֵ	בְּעֵין	הָ	יְהִ	לֹ	בְּדָרְכִּ
And he did	that which was right	in the sight	of the LORD			in the ways
H6213	H3477	H5869	H3068			H1870
תְּדִידֵ	אָבִ	לֹא	רֵ	תְּמִימֵ	אַשְׁמָאָלָ	
of David	his father	H3808	and declined	neither to the right hand	nor to the left	
H1732	H1		H5493	H3225		H8040

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 29:2 (References Lord): And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

Proverbs 4:27 (Parallel theme): Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Deuteronomy 17:20 (Parallel theme): That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:11 (Parallel theme): According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left.

Deuteronomy 28:14 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 5:32 (References Lord): Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Joshua 1:7 (Parallel theme): Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 23:6 (Parallel theme): Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

1 Kings 14:8 (References David): And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

1 Kings 15:5 (References Lord): Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.