

2 Chronicles 34:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

Analysis

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing God's Word driving comprehensive spiritual renewal. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

בְּשָׁמוֹנֶה הַ	שָׁנָה	לְמַלְכוֹתוֹ	וְהוּא	עוֹד בֶּן	נָעוּר
For in the eighth	year	of his reign	H1931	H5750	while he was yet young
H8083	H8141	H4427			H5288
הָחֵל	לְדַרֵּשׁ וְשׁ	לְאֱלֹהֵי י	דָּוִד יִד	אָבִיו	וּבְשֵׁנִי יָמִים
he began	to seek	after the God	of David	his father	and in the twelfth
H2490	H1875	H430	H1732	H1	H8147
הָחֵל	שָׁנָה הַ	עָשָׂה הַ	אֶת	יְהוּדָה	וְיֵרֵשָׁלַם
H6240	year	he began	to purge	Judah	and Jerusalem
H8141	H2490	H2891	H853	H3063	H4480
הַבָּמוֹת	וְהָאֲשֵׁרִים	וְהַפְּסֵלִים	וְהַמִּסְכּוֹת:		
from the high places	and the groves	and the carved images	and the molten images		
H1116	H842	H6456	H4541		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 33:22 (Parallel theme): But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them;

2 Chronicles 15:2 (Parallel theme): And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye

be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

Proverbs 8:17 (Parallel theme): I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

2 Chronicles 33:17 (References God): Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only.

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