

# 2 Chronicles 34:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

## Analysis

**And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.**

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**

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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**

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics 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

וַיַּעֲלֵם יְהוָה בֵּית לְגָן וְיְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הָיָה  
went up And the king in the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah  
H5927 H4428 H1004 H3068 H3605 H376 H3063

וְיְשָׁבֵב וְיִרְשֶׁלֶם וְיִבְכּוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִפְלִיא מִצְרָיָם  
and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites and the people  
H3427 H3389 H3548 H3881 H3605

וְלֹא יְמִגְדֵּל וְלֹא יְמִנְדֵּן וְלֹא יְקַרְבֵּן אֶל בְּזָבֵב  
and all the people great and small and he read in their ears  
H5704 H6996 H7121 H241 H853

כָּל דְּבָרִי כָּל כְּבָר יְהִי כָּל כְּבָר יְהִי כָּל  
all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house  
H1697 H5612 H1285 H4672 H1004

וְיְהוָה  
of the LORD  
H3068

## Additional Cross-References

**2 Kings 23:2** (Covenant): And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their

ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

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