

# 2 Chronicles 34:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

## Analysis

**And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.**

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

לֹפֶנְיִם יְהִי יְהִי תְּבִרֵךְ אֶת שְׁמָךְ וְעַל כְּפָר לְגַם דְּעַמְּךָ  
stood And the king in his place and made a covenant before  
H5975 H4428 H5921 H5977 H3772 H853 H1285 H6440

מִצְוָתָי אֶת וְלִשְׁמָה וְרִאֵת כַּתְּבַת יְהִי הָאָמֵן  
the LORD after the LORD and to keep his commandments  
H3068 H1980 H310 H3068 H8104 H853 H4687

וְבְכָל לְבָבֵךְ וְבְכָל וְהַקְרֵב יְהִי אֶת וְעַמְּךָ  
and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart  
H5715 H2706 H3605 H3824 H3605

פְּתֻתוֹב יְמֵינוּ אֶת דְּבָרֵךְ יְהִי תְּבִרֵךְ אֶת שְׁמָךְ  
and with all his soul to perform the words a covenant which are written  
H5315 H6213 H853 H1697 H1285 H3789

בְּזַהֲבָב הַסְּפָר עַל  
in this book

## Additional Cross-References

**2 Chronicles 23:16** (Covenant): And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

**2 Kings 11:14** (Kingdom): And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.

**2 Kings 23:3** (Covenant): And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

**2 Chronicles 15:12** (Covenant): And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

**2 Chronicles 6:13** (Creation): For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

**2 Chronicles 29:10** (Covenant): Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

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