

2 Chronicles 34:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Analysis

And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

מְקֻלָּה	פְּתֻעָב וְתַּ	כָּל	אָתָּה יְאָשֵׁר הָוֹ	רָא	they departed	And Josiah	H853	H3605	all the abominations	H8441	H3605
H5493	H2977										
בִּשְׁרָא לְ	לְבָנָי	אֲשֶׁר	בְּאַרְצֹת	רָא	אֲשֶׁר	out of all the countries	H834		that pertained to the children	H1121	in Israel
H776											H3478
בִּשְׁרָא לְ	פְּנִמְצָא	כָּל	אָתָּה לְעָבָד וְ	לְעָבָד וְ	even to serve	H853	H3605	and made all that were present	H4672	in Israel	H3478
H5647											
לְאָתָּה יְמִינֵיךְ וְ	כָּל אֱלֹהִים יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים	אֲתָּה לְעָבָד וְ	אֲתָּה לְעָבָד וְ	the LORD	the God	H853	H3068	And all his days	H3117	H3808	
H5647											
אֲבֹתֵיכֶם:	אֱלֹהִים יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים	מַאֲחֵר יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים	מַאֲחֵר יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים	they departed	not from following	H310	H3068	the God	H430	of their fathers	H1
H5493											

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:31 (References Lord): And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

