

2 Chronicles 34:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

Analysis

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וּבְשָׁנָה	שְׁמוֹנֶה עָשָׂר	לְמַלְכוֹת	לְטָהָר	
year	Now in the eighteenth	of his reign	when he had purged	
H8141	H8083	H6240	H4427	H2891
הָאָרֶץ	בֵּית	אֶת־שָׁפָן	בֶּן־אֶצְלָיָה	וְאֶת־יֹאחָז
the land	and the house	he sent	Shaphan	the son
H776	H1004	H853	H8227	H1121
וְאֶת־יֹאחָז	בֶּן־יֹאחָח	אֶת־הָעִיר	שָׂרִי	מַעֲשִׂיָּה
of Joahaz	and Joah	of the city	the governor	and Maaseiah
H3099	H3098	H5892	H8269	H4641
אֱלֹהֵינוּ:	יְהוָה	בֵּית	אֶת־לְחֹץ־קַיִן	הַמִּזְכֵּר
his God	of the LORD	and the house	to repair	the recorder
H430	H3068	H1004	H2388	H2142

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:16 (Parallel theme): And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;