

2 Chronicles 35:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,

Analysis

And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Greatest worship celebration since Samuel's time. 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לְלֵוִיִּם	הַמְּבֹרָכִים	לְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	הַקְּדוֹשִׁים		
And said	unto the Levites	that taught	H3605	Israel	which were holy		
H559	H3881	H995		H3478	H6918		
וְהָיָה	וַיִּתֵּן	אֶת	אֲרוֹן	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	בְּבֵית	אֶשֶׁר	בָּנָה
now the LORD	Put	H853	ark	the holy	in the house	H834	did build
H3068	H5414		H727	H6944	H1004		H1129
שְׁלֹמֹה	בֶּן	דָּוִיד	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	אֵין	לָכֶם	הַ
which Solomon	the son	of David	king	Israel	H369	H0	
H8010	H1121	H1732	H4428	H3478			
וְהָיָה	אֶת	עַבְדּוֹ	עִתָּהּ	בְּכֶתֶף	מִשָּׁא		
it shall not be a burden	upon your shoulders		H6258	serve	H853	now the LORD	
H4853	H3802			H5647		H3068	
וְיָאֵת	עַם	יִשְׂרָאֵל:					
your God	H853	and his people	Israel				
H430		H5971	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 23:26 (Parallel theme): And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof.

Deuteronomy 33:10 (References Israel): They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.

Malachi 2:7 (References Lord): For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

2 Chronicles 30:22 (Kingdom): And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.

2 Corinthians 4:5 (References Lord): For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Chronicles 5:7 (Holy): And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims: