

2 Chronicles 36:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

Analysis

Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Persistent rebellion bringing covenant curses; hope of restoration. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיַּעַל	אֶת עֲלֵיהֶם	מֶלֶךְ	כְּשֶׁד יִם		
Therefore he brought	H5921	H853	upon them the king	of the Chaldees	
H5927			H4428	H3778	
וַיַּהַרְגוּ	בָּנֵי יוֹר	בְּחֶרֶב	בְּבֵית יֵת	מִקְדָּשָׁם	וְלֹא
who slew	their young men	with the sword	in the house	of their sanctuary	H3808
H2026	H970	H2719	H1004	H4720	
וְלֹא	חַמַּל	עַל	בָּנֵי יוֹר	וּבְתוּלָה	זָקֵן
and had no compassion	H5921	their young men	or maiden	old man	
H2550		H970	H1330	H2205	
וַיִּשְׁטֹטֵט	לְפָנָיו	הָיָה	בְּיָדוֹ		
or him that stooped for age	H3605	he gave	them all into his hand		
H3486		H5414	H3027		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 74:20 (Parallel theme): Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.

Ezra 9:7 (Kingdom): Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests,

been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

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