

2 Chronicles 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

Analysis

And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on God's presence dwelling with His people. The Chronicler presents Solomon's faithfulness in temple building and worship as paradigmatic for post-exilic Israel. Unlike the Kings account which includes Solomon's failures, Chronicles emphasizes his positive example during his faithful years.

Theologically, the passage demonstrates that wholehearted seeking of God results in His manifest blessing and presence. The temple construction and dedication represent the climax of God's dwelling with Israel, foreshadowing the incarnation when God would dwell among humanity in Christ. The elaborate preparations and careful adherence to divine pattern emphasize that worship must occur on God's terms.

Cross-references to the tabernacle (Exodus 25-40), Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17), and Messianic prophecies illuminate how Solomon's temple points toward Christ as the true meeting place between God and humanity. The material glory of Solomon's kingdom anticipates the greater glory of the Messianic age.

Historical Context

The reign of Solomon (970-930 BCE) represents Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity. The temple construction began in Solomon's fourth year (966 BCE), exactly 480 years after the Exodus according to 1 Kings 6:1. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective (450-400 BCE), emphasizing themes relevant to the restored community: temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Archaeological evidence confirms Solomon's extensive building projects and international trade relationships. The temple's design incorporated Phoenician architectural elements, evidenced by parallel structures discovered in Syria and Lebanon. Solomon's alliance with Hiram of Tyre provided both materials (Lebanese cedar) and craftsmen for the construction.

The post-exilic audience, having returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple, needed encouragement that God's presence and blessing could be restored through faithful worship. The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as paradigmatic—when leaders and people seek God wholeheartedly, He dwells among them and prospers them.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen understanding of God's presence as the source of true blessing and success?
2. What does this passage teach about the importance of following God's prescribed patterns in worship and service?
3. How does Solomon's example in Ark Brought to Temple point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

רָאשׁ	וְ	יָרָא	וְ	הַבָּדָק	יָמָם	וְ	יָרָא	וְ	רָאשׁ	וְ
And they drew out	of the staves	but they were not seen	of the ark that the ends							
H748	H905	H7200	H7218							
מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן	מִן
of the staves	of the staves	from the ark	before the oracle	without	from the ark	before the oracle	without	from the ark	before the oracle	without
H4480	H905	H727	H5921	H6440	H1687	H3808	H2351	H1961	H8033	H5704
וְ	פְּנֵי	עַל	פְּנֵי	עַל	פְּנֵי	עַל	פְּנֵי	עַל	פְּנֵי	עַל
but they were not seen	without	before the oracle	before the oracle	without	before the oracle	before the oracle	without	before the oracle	before the oracle	And there it is unto this day
H7200	H2351	H1687	H3117							
בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא	בָּהָרָא
H2088										

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