

# 2 Chronicles 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.

## Analysis

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**Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Covenant faithfulness and answered prayer. 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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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 Solomon's Dedication Prayer point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

## Interlinear Text

לַעֲבֹדְךָ	וְיִשְׁמֶר וְיִשְׁכָּא לֵאלֹהֵי יְהוָה הַנִּתְּ	נְעַתְּ הַ
	keep with thy servant	Now therefore O LORD
	H8104 H5650	H6258 H3068
לֹאמֹר לוֹ	דָּבָר רַחֵם אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתָ אֲבִי דָוִד	
him saying	that which thou hast promised	David my father
H559	H1696	H1732 H1
עַל יוֹשֵׁב לִפְנֵי אִישׁ לָבֹ	יִכָּרֵת לֹא	
to sit before thee a man	There shall not fail	
H5921 H3427	H3772	H3808
אֶת בְּנֵי יִבְיָשָׁם וְיִשְׁמֶר וְיִשְׁכָּא לְכִסֵּא	אֶת בְּנֵי יִבְיָשָׁם וְיִשְׁמֶר וְיִשְׁכָּא לְכִסֵּא	
that thy children keep	of Israel yet so	upon the throne
H1121 H8104	H3478 H7535	H3678
הָלַכְתָּ כְּאִשְׁרֵי בֵּית וְכִי הָלַכְתָּ	הָלַכְתָּ כְּאִשְׁרֵי בֵּית וְכִי הָלַכְתָּ	
as thou hast walked in my law	as thou hast walked to their way	
H834 H1980	H1870	
לִפְנֵי		
before		
H6440		

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Kings 2:4** (Word): That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

**Psalms 132:12** (Covenant): If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.

**2 Chronicles 7:18** (Covenant): Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

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