

# 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

**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

**Psalm 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

לעָזֶב	ישָׁרָאֵל	וְיִשְׁמַר	הָאָלֹהִים	הִנֵּה	וְאַתָּה	לְעִזָּת
H6258	Now therefore O LORD	God	of Israel	keep	with thy servant	
	H3068	H430	H3478	H8104		H5650
לֹא	אָשָׁר	אָשָׁר	אָשָׁר	אָשָׁר	לֹא	לֹא
לֹא	אָבִי	אָתָּה	אָתָּה	אָתָּה	אָמַר	לֹא
David	my father	H853	H834	that which thou hast promised		him saying
H1732	H1			H1696		H559
לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
לֹא	יִכְרֹת	לֹא	אִישׁ	לֹפֶת	וַיֹּשֶׁב	עַל
H3808	There shall not fail	H0	thee a man	before	to sit	H5921
	H3772		H376	H6440	H3427	
אַתָּה	בְּנֵי כֶּסֶף	וְיִשְׁמַר וְאַתָּה	בְּנֵי כֶּסֶף	בְּנֵי כֶּסֶף	בְּנֵי כֶּסֶף	אַתָּה
upon the throne	of Israel	yet so	H518	keep	that thy children	H853
H3678	H3478	H7535		H8104	H1121	
בְּלֹא כַּפְתָּר	בְּאָשָׁר בַּת וְבַת	בְּלֹא כַּפְתָּר	בְּלֹא כַּפְתָּר	בְּלֹא כַּפְתָּר	בְּלֹא כַּפְתָּר	
to their way	as thou hast walked		in my law	H834	as thou hast walked	
H1870	H1980		H8451		H1980	
לֹפֶת						
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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