

2 Chronicles 6:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;

Analysis

If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	אָדָם	אֵלֶּה	אֵין	אַל	אַל	אַל	אַל	אַל
H834	H3588	H0	H3588	H369				
If they sin					against thee (for there is no man			
H2398						H120		
לֹא	וְנִתְתַּתְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
H3808	If they sin	not and thou be angry	H599	H0	with them and deliver	H5414		
H2398								
לִפְנֵי	שׂוֹבֵבָה	בְּ	אֹוֹי	בְּ	שׂוֹבֵבָה	בְּ	שׂוֹבֵבָה	בְּ
them over before	their enemies	and they carry them away	H341	H7617	and they carry them away	H7617		
H6440								
אֶל	קְרוּבָה:	הַ	אֵין	רְחוּקָה:	אֵין	רְחוּקָה:	אֶל	אֶל
H413	unto a land	far off	H176	or near	H7138			
H776	H7350							

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (Sin): For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

James 3:2 (Parallel theme): For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Psalms 130:3 (Parallel theme): If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

Psalms 143:2 (Parallel theme): And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

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