

2 Chronicles 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

Analysis

And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on International recognition of God's blessing. 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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 Queen of Sheba and Solomon's Wealth point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וְמִצְמָכָה	לְ	שָׁלֹחַ	בְּ	וּמִשְׁמַעַת	עֲבָדִים	וְמִצְמָכָה
And the meat	of his table	and the sitting	of his servants	and the attendance		
H3978	H7979	H4186	H5650	H4612		
וְמִלְבָבָם	וְשִׁיאָם	וְמִשְׁקָנָם	וְמִלְבָבָם	וְשִׁיאָם	וְמִשְׁקָנָם	
of his ministers	also and their apparel		H4945		also and their apparel	
H8334	H4403				H4403	
וְעַלְתִּיתָה	רָאשָׁה	וְעַלְתִּיתָה	בְּ יְהוָה	וְעַלְתִּיתָה	יְהוָה	וְעַלְתִּיתָה
and his ascent	H834	by which he went up	into the house	of the LORD	H3808	
H5944		H5927	H1004	H3068		
רָוּמָה:						
there was no more spirit		H7307				
H1961	H5750	H0				

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