

2 Kings 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he commanded them, saying, This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you that enter in on the sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house;

Analysis

And he commanded them, saying, This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you that enter in on the sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house;

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 11: Preservation of Davidic line and covenant faithfulness. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. This passage occurs during the decline toward Israel's exile, demonstrating how persistent covenant unfaithfulness leads to national disaster.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 11 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Athaliah's Usurpation and Downfall) reflects the historical reality of progressive political instability and external threats, particularly from Aram (Syria) and later Assyria. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the

biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 11 regarding preservation of davidic line and covenant faithfulness?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּצַו ה'	לֵאמֹר	זֶה	הַדָּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	תַּעֲשׂוּ
And he commanded	them saying	H2088	This is the thing	H834	that ye shall do
H6680	H559		H1697		H6213
הַשְּׁלִישִׁית	מִכֶּם	בָּא י'	הַשַּׁבָּת	וְשָׁמְרֵיהֶּ	
A third part	H4480	of you that enter in	on the sabbath	shall even be keepers	
H7992		H935	H7676	H8104	
מִשְׁמֶרֶת	בֵּית	הַמֶּלֶךְ:			
of the watch	house	of the king's			
H4931	H1004	H4428			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 9:25 (Parallel theme): And their brethren, which were in their villages, were to come after seven days from time to time with them.

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