

2 Chronicles 34:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.

Analysis

God's message to Josiah through the prophetess Huldah reveals the power of responsive hearts: 'Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.' The 'tender heart' (rakh lev) contrasts with hardened hearts that resist God's Word. Josiah's response to Scripture reading - humbling, tearing clothes, weeping - demonstrated genuine brokenness over sin. God's response 'I have heard thee' shows He responds to humble contrition. Though judgment on Judah was inevitable, Josiah's tender response brought personal mercy.

Historical Context

When the Law scroll was discovered during temple renovation (622 BCE), its reading revealed how far Judah had strayed from covenant. Josiah's immediate, emotional response contrasted with his predecessors' indifference, demonstrating true fear of God and love for His Word.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How tender is your heart when reading Scripture that exposes sin or pronounces judgment?
2. What would it look like to respond to God's Word with Josiah's level of humility and brokenness?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים לְפָנָי יְהוָה יְמִינָה כִּי תְּהִלֵּתְךָ תְּהִלָּתָה וְתִּתְּהִלֵּתָה
H3282 was tender Because thine heart and thou didst humble before God
H7401 H3284 H2665 H6410 H420

שֶׁמֶן עֲתִי	אֶת	דְּבָרִי	עַל	פֶּפֶק וּמִ	בָּזָה	עַל
me I have even heard	H853	his words	H5921	against this place	H2088	H5921

אַת	וְתַהַרְתָּ עָ	וְתַהַרְתָּ עָ	לְפָנֵי	וְתַהַרְתָּ עָ	וְתַהַרְתָּ עָ	וְתַהַרְתָּ עָ
and against the inhabitants	and thou didst humble	before	me and didst rend			H853

תָּמָם שְׁמָעֵתִי יְתִיבֵּל לְפָנֶיךָ אַתָּה יְגַם בְּגַד יְבָדֵל
thy clothes **and weep** **before** **H1571** **H589** **me I have even heard** **H925** **thee also saith** **H5002**

י' סוף

the LORD

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 32:26 (References Lord): Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

Isaiah 65:24 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Isaiah 66:2 (Word): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Psalms 51:17 (References God): The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 34:18 (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 10:17 (References Lord): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Ezekiel 9:4 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

2 Chronicles 34:19 (Word): And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

2 Chronicles 33:12 (References God): And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,