

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

יַעַן H3282	כִּנְיָ H7401	לְבַבְךָ H3824	וַתִּכְנֵן עַ H3665	לִפְנֵי י H6440	אֱלֹהֵי יָם H430
was tender	Because thine heart	and thou didst humble	before	God	
שָׁמַעְתִּי H8085	אֶת H853	דְּבָרָיו H1697	עַל H5921	הַמָּקוֹם H4725	וְעַל הַזֶּה H2088
me I have even heard	his words	against this place			
וְעַל שָׁרֵי יוֹ H3427	וַתִּכְנֵן עַ H3665	לִפְנֵי י H6440	וַתִּקְרַב עַ H7167	אֶת H853	
and against the inhabitants	and thou didst humble	before	me and didst rend		
בְּגָד יָרָ H899	וַתִּבְרֹךְ H1058	לִפְנֵי י H6440	וְגַם H1571	אֲנִי י H589	שָׁמַעְתִּי H8085
thy clothes	and weep	before		me I have even heard	thee also saith
יְהוָה: H3068					
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,