

2 Kings 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

Analysis

And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 11: Preservation of Davidic line and covenant faithfulness. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

הָבַ עַל	בֵּית	הָאָרֶץ	עִם	כָּל	וַיִּבֶּ אֹו
of Baal	into the house	of the land	And all the people	went	
H1168	H1004	H776	H5971	H3605 H935	
שָׁבַר וְ	צַלְמֵיו	וְאֵת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְ	אֶת	וַתִּצֵּ הוּ
brake they in pieces	and his images		his altars		and brake it down
H7665	H6754	H853	H4196	H853	H5422
לִפְנֵי י	הָרַג וְ	הָבַ עַל	הַכֹּהֵן	מַטָּן	וְאֵת
before	and slew	of Baal	And the priest	Mattan	thoroughly
H6440	H2026	H1168	H3548	H4977	H3190
בֵּית	עַל	פָּקְדֵי	הַכֹּהֵן	וַיִּשָּׂם	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְ
into the house			And the priest	appointed	his altars
H1004	H5921	H6486	H3548	H7760	H4196
וְהָיָה:					
of the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:3 (Sacrifice): And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

1 Kings 18:40 (Parallel theme): And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

2 Kings 10:26 (Parallel theme): And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.

2 Kings 18:4 (Parallel theme): He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had

made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

Deuteronomy 13:5 (References Lord): And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

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