

2 Kings 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house.

Analysis

And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

רְגֹזֵן	H3605	וְכֹל	עַם	הַאֲרֵץ	וְקָרְבָּן	וְבָבֶן	בָּבֶן
---------	-------	-------	-----	---------	------------	---------	--------

אֶתְּנָהָרָה	H853	עַתְּלִי	הַמִּתְּהֻרְּבָּה	בְּבֵית	בְּבֵית	בְּבֵית
--------------	------	----------	-------------------	---------	---------	---------

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:10 (Parallel theme): When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

Proverbs 29:2 (Parallel theme): When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

