

2 Kings 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Analysis

But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 12: Religious reform and temple restoration. 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 12 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Joash Repairs the Temple) 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 15:13 — Greatest form 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 12 regarding religious reform and temple restoration?
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

כִּי	בִּמְקוֹתַיִם:	לֹא	קִרְוּ	עַד	הָעָם
H7535	But the high places	H3808	were not taken away	H5750	the people
	H1116		H5493		H5971
מִזְבְּחֵי יָם	וּמִקְטֹרֶת יָם	בִּמְקוֹתַיִם:			
still sacrificed	and burnt incense	But the high places			
H2076	H6999	H1116			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 14:4 (Sacrifice): Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

1 Kings 15:14 (Parallel theme): But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.

1 Kings 22:43 (Parallel theme): And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD:

nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

2 Kings 15:35 (Sacrifice): Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.

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.