

2 Kings 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

Analysis

Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 14: Pride leads to downfall; God's mercy continues. 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 14 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Amaziah of Judah and Jeroboam II) 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 14 regarding pride leads to downfall; god's mercy continues?
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

בִּקְרָה	בְּבָמֹת:	לֹא	סָרָו	עַד	וְהָעָם
H7535	Howbeit the high places	H3808	were not taken away	as yet	the people
	H1116		H5493	H5750	H5971
וַיִּזְבֹּחַ	וַיִּקְטֹּר	בְּבָמֹת:			
did sacrifice	and burnt incense	Howbeit the high places			
H2076	H6999	H1116			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 12:3 (Sacrifice): But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

2 Kings 16:4 (Sacrifice): And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

