

# 2 Kings 16:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon.

## Analysis

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**And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 16: Desperate alliances and religious compromise. 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

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 16 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Ahaz's Apostasy) reflects the historical reality of desperate political alliances and religious syncretism as Judah faced external threats. 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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 16 regarding desperate alliances and religious compromise?
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

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וַיָּבֹא אֶת־	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ֙	מִדָּמָשְׁקִי	וַיֵּרָא	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ֙	אֶת־
was come	And when the king	from Damascus	saw	And when the king	H853
H935	H4428	H1834	H7200	H4428	
הַמִּזְבֵּי־	וַיִּקְרַב ב־	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ֙	עַל־	הַמִּזְבֵּי־	וַיֵּלֶךְ
the altar	approached	And when the king	H5921	the altar	and offered
H4196	H7126	H4428		H4196	H5927