

2 Kings 16:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire by.

Analysis

And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire by.

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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

עַל לְאָמֵר הַכֹּה יִצְרָה הַ
 commanded And king Ahaz H853 Urijah the priest saying H5921
 H6680 H4428 H271 H223 H3548 H559 H5921

וְאַתָּה בְּבֹקֶר וְאַתָּה עַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
 altar Upon the great burn burnt offering the morning H853
 H4196 H1419 H6999 H5930 H1242 H853

וְאַתָּה בְּפֹתַח רַב בְּשַׂעַר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
 and his meat offering and the evening burnt offering And king H853
 H4503 H6153 H5930 H4428 H853

בְּאֶרֶץ כָּל עַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאַתָּה בְּכָל
 and his meat offering burnt offering of all the people of the land H854 H5930 H3605 H5971 H776

וְאַתָּה בְּשַׂעַר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאַתָּה בְּכָל
 and his meat offering and their drink offerings and all the blood burnt offering H4503 H5262 H3605 H1818 H5930

וְמִזְבֵּחַ וְתַזְרִיר קְרֵבָה עַל יְדֵיכֶם וְכֹל
 and all the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkle altar H3605 H1818 H2077 H5921 H2236 H4196

לְבָקָר: וְאַתָּה בְּנֵחַ שְׁתַת
 and the brasen shall be for me to enquire H1961 H0 H1239

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:64 (Kingdom): The same day did the king hallow the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings: because the brasen altar that was before the LORD was too little to receive the burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

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.

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