

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 לַאֲמֹר הַכֹּהֵן אֲזַיְרָיָה אֶת אֶחָז הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּצֵא הוּא
commanded And king Ahaz H853 Urijah the priest saying H5921
H6680 H4428 H271 H223 H3548 H559

וְאֶת הַבֹּקֶר עַל הָאֵשׁ אֶת הַקֹּטֹרֶת הַגָּדוֹל וְעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
altar Upon the great burn H853 burnt offering the morning H853
H4196 H1419 H6999 H5930 H1242

וְאֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת הָעֶרֶב וּמִנְחָתוֹ
and his meat offering and the evening H853 burnt offering And king H853
H4503 H6153 H5930 H4428

הָאֶרֶץ וְעַם כָּל עַל הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת וּמִנְחָתוֹ
and his meat offering H854 burnt offering H3605 of all the people of the land
H4503 H5930 H5971 H776

עַל הָאֵשׁ וְכָל דָּמָם וְנִסְכֵּיהֶם וּמִנְחָתוֹ
and his meat offering and their drink offerings H3605 and all the blood burnt offering
H4503 H5262 H1818 H5930

וְעַל יְדֵי זֶבַח וְעַל יְדֵי וְעַל יְדֵי וְעַל יְדֵי וְעַל יְדֵי
H3605 and all the blood of the sacrifice H5921 and sprinkle altar
H1818 H2077 H2236 H4196

לְבַקֵּר: לִי יְהוָה הַנֶּחֱשֵׁת
and the brassen H1961 H0 shall be for me to enquire
H5178 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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