

2 Kings 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

Analysis

And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְיִזְבַּח	וְיִקְרָב	בְּבָמָה	וְתַּעֲלֵל	הַגְּבֻעָה	וְתַּעֲלֵל
And he sacrificed	and burnt incense	in the high places	H5921	and on the hills	
H2076	H6999	H1116		H1389	
וְיִתְבָּרֵךְ	וְיִתְבָּרֵךְ	בְּכָל	בְּכָל		
H8478	H3605	tree	and under every green		
	H6086	H7488			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:2 (Parallel theme): Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:

1 Kings 14:23 (Parallel theme): For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.