

2 Kings 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 18: Faithful reformation faces external pressure. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 18 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (Hezekiah's Reforms and Assyrian Threat) reflects the historical reality of genuine religious reform under Hezekiah, including trust in God that resulted in miraculous deliverance from 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 18 regarding faithful reformation faces external pressure?
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

הַמִּצְבֹּת	אֶת	וְשִׁבְרָם	הַגְּבוּעִים	אֶת	הַסִּיר	וְהָיָה
H4676	H853	H7665	H1116	H853	H5493	H1931
the images	and	brake	the high places	and	He removed	
אֲשֶׁר	הֵנִיחַ	שֵׁת	נָחַשׁ	וְכָתַת	הָאֲשֵׁכָה	אֶת
H834	H5178	H5175	H3807	H842	H853	H3772
the brasen	serpent	and brake in pieces	the groves	and cut down		
הָיוּ	וְהָיָה	מָה	הָיָה	יָמֵם	עַד	כִּי
H1961	H1992	H3117	H5704	H3588	H4872	H6213
for unto those days	that Moses	had made				
לְ	וַיִּקְרָא	לְ	מִקְטֹרֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	
H0	H7121	H0	H6999	H3478	H1121	
to it and he called	the children	of Israel	did burn incense			
נְהֻשְׁתָּן:						
H5180						
it Nehushtan						

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 31:1 (References Israel): Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

Exodus 23:24 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

Deuteronomy 7:5 (Parallel theme): But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

1 Kings 22:43 (Parallel theme): And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

Leviticus 26:30 (Parallel theme): And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

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

2 Kings 18:22 (Parallel theme): But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?

Judges 6:28 (Parallel theme): And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

Judges 6:25 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: