

2 Kings 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

Analysis

Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 21: Unprecedented wickedness brings irreversible judgment. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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 21 takes place during the final century of Judah's existence, 7th century BCE, including Manasseh and Josiah's reigns. The chapter's theme (Manasseh and Amon's Evil Reigns) reflects the historical reality of the worst apostasy under Manasseh followed by the most thorough reforms under

Josiah, demonstrating that external righteousness cannot reverse God's determined judgment. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 21 regarding unprecedented wickedness brings irreversible judgment?
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

יַעַן H3282	אֲשֶׁר H834	עָשָׂה H6213	מְנַשֶּׁה H4519	מֶלֶךְ H4428	יְהוּדָה H3063
		did	Because Manasseh	king	him and hath made Judah
הַתְּעֵב H8441	וְהָאֵלֹהִים H428	וַיַּעַשׂ H7489	לְרָעָה H3605	אֲשֶׁר H834	עָשָׂה H6213
		these abominations	and hath done wickedly		did
הָאֲמֹרִי H567	אֲשֶׁר H834	לִפְנֵי H6440	וְחָטָא H2398	גַּם H1571	אֶת H853
		above all that the Amorites	which were before	also to sin	
יְהוּדָה H3063	בְּגִלּוּלָיו H1544				
him and hath made Judah	with his idols				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 21:26 (Parallel theme): And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

2 Kings 21:9 (Evil): But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

Jeremiah 15:4 (Kingdom): And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem.