

2 Kings 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 21: Unprecedented wickedness brings irreversible judgment. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

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 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

הִנֵּנִי	ישְׁבָא	לְ	אֱלֹהִים	יְהוָה	אֶמֶרֶת	כֹּה	לְכָה	לְכָה
H3651	H3541	Therefore	thus	saith	the	LORD	God	of Israel
		H559			H3068		H430	H3478
Behold	I am bringing	such	evil		upon	Jerusalem	and	Judah
H935		H7451		H5921		H3389		H3063
אֶזְנִים:	שְׁמַע	וְ	תִּצְלַבְתָּה	שְׁתַיִם	שְׁתַיִם	שְׁמַע	אֶזְנִים:	כָּל
that whosoever	heareth		shall tingle	of it both	his ears			אֲשֶׁר
H8085			H6750	H8147	H241			H834

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 19:3 (Evil): And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle.

1 Samuel 3:11 (References Lord): And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

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