

2 Kings 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

Analysis

And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and 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

וְבָנָה הָ	מִזְבֵּחַ תְּ	בְּבַיִת הָ	יְהִי הָ	אָמַר אֲשֶׁר	יְהִי הָ
And he built	altars	in the house	of the LORD	said	of the LORD
H1129	H4196	H1004	H3068	H834	H3068
בְּיְרוּשָׁלָם	אֲשֶׁר יְמִ	אֵת שְׁמֵי:			
In Jerusalem	will I put	my name			
H3389	H7760	H8034			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:29 (Parallel theme): That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

2 Samuel 7:13 (Parallel theme): He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Jeremiah 32:34 (Parallel theme): But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.

Deuteronomy 12:5 (References Lord): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

1 Kings 9:3 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

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