

2 Kings 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

Analysis

And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַעֲשֵׂה הָאֵשֶׁת	וְאֵשֶׁת רָאָה	פָּסַל	אֶת	אֵשֶׁת יִם
that he had made	H834	of the grove	H842	a graven image
H6213			H6459	H853
H7760				
וְאֵל דָּוִד	אֶל	יְהוָה	אָמַר רָאָה	בֵּית יִתְ
to David	H413	of which the LORD	H3068	said
H1732			H559	H834
H413				H1004
וְאֵשֶׁת רָאָה	וּבִירוּשָׁלַם	הָזֶה	בֵּית יִתְ	בְּנוֹ וְשָׁלֵם הָ
H834	and in Jerusalem	H2088	In this house	his son
	H3389		H1004	H1121
				H8010
אֶת	אֵשֶׁת יִם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	שְׁבִטִי	מִכָּל
H853	And he set	of Israel	H3478	out of all tribes
	H7760			H7626
				H3605
				H977
				וְהָיָה רְתִי
				which I have chosen
				לְעוֹלָם:
				my name
				H8034
				for ever
				H5769

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 7:16 (Parallel theme): For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

1 Kings 9:3 (Creation): 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.

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.

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

Nehemiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Deuteronomy 16:21 (References Lord): Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee.

2 Kings 23:27 (References Lord): And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

2 Kings 23:6 (References Lord): And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

2 Kings 21:4 (References Lord): And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

2 Chronicles 33:15 (References Lord): And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city.