

2 Kings 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

אָתָּה	לְעַשׂ	וְתַ	מִנְשָׁה	וַיַּתְעַטֵּן	עָזָבָה	שָׁמְעָה	אָלָּא
H853	H6213	H4519	H4519	H8582	H8045	H8045	H8045
בָּרָעָם	מִן	בְּנֵי	הַשְׁמִיד	אֲשֶׁר	הַשְׁמִיד	בְּנֵי	יְהִי הָ
more evil	H4480	than did the nations	H834	destroyed	H834	whom the LORD	H3068
H7451		H1471		H8045		H8045	
מִפְנֵן	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:					
before	the children	of Israel					
H6440	H1121	H3478					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:12 (Evil): If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

