

2 Kings 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 22: Rediscovery of God's word brings renewal. 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 22 takes place during the final century of Judah's existence, 7th century BCE, including Manasseh and Josiah's reigns. The chapter's theme (Josiah's Reform Begins) 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 22 regarding rediscovery of god's word brings renewal?
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

בָּשָׂמָךְ עַל־יְהוָה	בְּתוּלָה	אֶת־	בְּרִרְבָּה־	דְּבָרִים	אֶת־
H1961 had heard	And it came to pass when the king	H853	the words	of the book	
H8085		H4428		H1697	H5612

בְּרִרְבָּה־	עַל־	אֶת־	בְּרִרְבָּה־	דְּבָרִים
of the law	that he rent	H853	his clothes	
H8451	H7167		H899	

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 34:19 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

Jeremiah 36:24 (Kingdom): Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

Joel 2:13 (Parallel theme): And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

2 Kings 22:19 (Parallel theme): Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou hearest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

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