

2 Kings 22:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

Analysis

And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וַיֹּצַח	וְהָמֶלֶךְ	אֶת	חִלְקִיָּה	הַכֹּהֵן	וְאֶת	אֲחִיקָם
commanded	And the king	H853	Hilkiah	the priest	H853	and Ahikam
H6680	H4428		H2518	H3548		H296
בֶּן	שָׁפָן	וְאֶת	עֶכְבֹּר	בֶּן	מִיכָיָה	וְאֵת
the son	and Shaphan	H853	and Achbor	the son	of Michaiah	H853
H1121	H8227		H5907	H1121	H4320	
וְשָׁפָן	הַסֹּפֵר	וְאֵת	עֲשָׂיָה	עֶבֶד	וְהָמֶלֶךְ	לֵאמֹר:
and Shaphan	the scribe	H853	and Asahiah	a servant	And the king	saying
H8227	H5608		H6222	H5650	H4428	H559

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 26:24 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.

2 Kings 25:22 (Kingdom): And as for the people that remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, ruler.

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