

2 Kings 22:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest 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.

Analysis

Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest 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.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 22: Rediscovery of God's word brings renewal. 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 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

יָעַן	כֹּחַ	לִבְךָ	וַתִּכְבֹּעַ	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה:
H3282	was tender	Because thine heart	and thou hast humbled	before	the LORD
	H7401	H3824	H3665	H6440	H3068
שָׁמַעְתִּי	אֲשֶׁר	דִּבַּרְתִּי	עַל	הַמָּקוֹם	הַזֶּה
me I also have heard	H834	what I spake	H5921	against this place	H2088
H8085		H1696		H4725	H5921
וַיִּשָּׁבּוּ	לְהִי	לְשִׁמָּה			
and against the inhabitants	H1961	thereof that they should become a desolation			
H3427		H8047			
וְלִקְלָלָהּ	וַתִּקְרַע	אֶת	בִּגְדֵי יָכָה	וַתִּבְכֶּה	לִפְנֵי
and a curse	and hast rent	H853	thy clothes	and wept	before
H7045	H7167		H899	H1058	H6440
שָׁמַעְתִּי	נָא	יְהוָה:			
me I also have heard	thee saith	the LORD			
H8085	H5002	H3068			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 51:17 (Parallel theme): The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

1 Kings 21:29 (Parallel theme): Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Exodus 10:3 (References Lord): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

1 Samuel 24:5 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

Micah 6:8 (References Lord): He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Isaiah 66:5 (References Lord): Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

Jeremiah 44:22 (Curse): So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.

Luke 19:41 (Parallel theme): And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Isaiah 66:2 (References Lord): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.