

# 2 Kings 23:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

## Analysis

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**And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 23: Comprehensive reformation cannot avert certain judgment. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 23 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 Thorough Reforms) 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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 23 regarding comprehensive reformation cannot avert certain 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

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וַיִּשְׁבֶּת תְּהִזְכֵּר אֶת הַסּוֹס יְמֵנוֹ אֲשֶׁר נָתַנוּ לְמַלְכֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הַיּוֹדָעָה  
And he took away the horses H834 had given that the kings of Judah  
H7673 H5483 H5414 H4428 H3063

לְשִׁכְתָּה אֶל יְהִי הַבָּיִת מִבַּא הַבָּיִת מִשְׁמָשׁ  
of the sun at the entering in of the house of the LORD by the chamber  
H8121 H935 H1004 H3068 H413 H3957

וְאַתָּה בְּפִרְגּוֹן יְמֵנוֹ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן מִלְּגָד לְנָתָן  
of Nathanmelech the chamberlain which was in the suburbs H853  
H5419 H5631 H834 H6503

בְּאֵשׁ שָׁבָר פִּשְׁמַשׁ מְרַכְבָּה וְתַּחַת  
the chariots of the sun and burned with fire  
H4818 H8121 H8313 H784

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 8:16** (References Lord): And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

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