

# 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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וַשָּׁב תֵּי  
And he took away H7673  
אֶת הַסּוּסִים  
H853 the horses H5483  
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן  
H834 had given H5414  
מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה  
that the kings H4428 of Judah H3063

לְשֹׁכֶת אֵל  
H413 by the chamber H3957  
יְהוָה הַבַּיִת  
of the LORD H3068  
מִבְּנֵי אֶת  
H935 at the entering in  
הַשֶּׁשֶׁלֶּשֶׁת  
H8121 of the sun

וְנָתַן  
H0 of Nathanmelech H5419  
מֶלֶךְ הַחֲמֹלֶה  
H5631 the chamberlain  
אֲשֶׁר  
H834  
בְּפִרְזֵי יָם  
which was in the suburbs H6503  
אֶת  
H853

בָּאֵשׁ: שָׂרָף  
H784 with fire  
הַשֶּׁשֶׁלֶּשֶׁת  
H8121 of the sun  
מֵרֶכֶב וְאֵת  
H4818 the chariots

## 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.