

# 2 Kings 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

## Analysis

**And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 23: Comprehensive reformation cannot avert certain judgment. 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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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## 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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וְאֵת	הַבַּיִת	עַל	פְּנֵי	יְרוּשָׁלַם	אֲשֶׁר
H853	And the high places	H834	H5921	that were before	Jerusalem
	H1116		H6440		H3389
מִיְמֵי	לְהָר	הַמִּשְׁחִית	אֲשֶׁר	בָּנָה	
which were on the right hand	of the mount	of corruption	H834	had builded	
	H3225	H2022	H4889	H1129	
שְׁלֹמֹה	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְעַשְׁתִּי	שֶׁקֶץ	
which Solomon	did the king	of Israel	for Ashtoreth	the abomination	
H8010	H4428	H3478	H6253	H8251	
צִידֹנִי	וְלִכְמוֹשׁ	שֶׁקֶץ	מוֹאָב	וְלִמְלָכִם	
of the Zidonians	and for Chemosh	the abomination	of the Moabites	and for Milcom	
H6722	H3645	H8251	H4124	H4445	
תּוֹעֵבָה	בְּנֵי	עַמּוֹן	טִמָּא	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	
the abomination	of the children	of Ammon	defile	did the king	
H8441	H1121	H5983	H2930	H4428	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 11:7** (References Jerusalem): Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

**1 Kings 11:5** (Parallel theme): For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

**Numbers 21:29** (Kingdom): Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites.