

# 2 Kings 23:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover the altar that was at Beth-el, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

## Analysis

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**Moreover the altar that was at Beth-el, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 23: Comprehensive reformation cannot avert certain judgment. 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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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## 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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|                    |            |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| אֶת                | וְגַם      | הַמִּזְבֵּחַ       | אֲשֶׁר             | בְּבֵית            | אֵל                |
| H853               | H1571      | H4196              | H834               | H0                 | H1008              |
|                    |            | Moreover the altar |                    |                    | that was at Bethel |
| וְנָבַט            | בֶּן       | יֶרֶבֹאֵם          | עָשָׂה             | אֲשֶׁר             | הַבָּמָה           |
| H5028              | H1121      | H3379              | H6213              | H834               | H1116              |
| of Nebat           | the son    | which Jeroboam     | had made           |                    | and the high place |
| הַמִּזְבֵּחַ       | אֶת        | גַּם               | יִשְׂרָאֵל         | אֲשֶׁר             | הָחָטָא            |
| H4196              | H853       | H1571              | H3478              | H834               | H2398              |
| Moreover the altar |            |                    | who made Israel    |                    | to sin             |
| אֶת                | וְשָׂרַף   | נָתַץ              | הַבָּמָה           | וְאֶת              | הַהִיא             |
| H853               | H8313      | H5422              | H1116              | H853               | H1931              |
|                    | and burned | he brake down      | and the high place |                    |                    |
| אֲשֶׁרָהּ          | וְשָׂרַף   | לְעָפָן            | הָיָה              | וְהַבָּמָה         | הַהִיא             |
| H842               | H8313      | H6083              | H1854              | H1116              | H1931              |
| the grove          | and burned | it small to powder | and stamped        | and the high place |                    |

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 14:16** (Creation): And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.

**2 Kings 23:6** (Parallel theme): And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.