

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

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

אַל בְּבִית אֲשֶׁר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲתָּה וְגַם
H1571 H853 Moreover the altar H4196 H834 H0 H1008

נְבָט בֶּן יְרָבָע מִשְׁׁעַן הַבְּמֹת הַבְּמֹת
and the high place H1116 H834 H6213 H3379 H1121 H5028

בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲתָּה קָרְבֵּן יְאַשֵּׁר
H834 to sin H853 who made Israel H3478 H1571 H853 H4196

אֲתָּה וְשָׁבָר וְנִתְּזֵבֵן וְשָׁבָר
H1931 H853 and the high place H1116 H5422 H8313 H853

אֲשֶׁר הַבְּמֹת הַבְּמֹת הַזֶּה לְעַפְרָה וְשָׁבָר
and the high place and stamped it small to powder and burned the grove H1116 H1854 H6083 H8313 H842

Additional Cross-References

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.