

# 2 Kings 23:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Beth-el.

## Analysis

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**Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Beth-el.**

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. 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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 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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וַיֹּאמֶר ו	מָה	הַצִּיּוֹן	הֲלֵז	אֲשֶׁר	אֲנִי	רָאֵה	וַיֹּאמֶר ו
Then he said	H4100	What title	is that	H834	H589	that I see	Then he said
H559		H6725	H1975			H7200	H559
אֶל יוֹ	אִישׁ	הָעִיר	הַקָּבֵר	אִישׁ	הָאֱלֹהִים		
H413	of the man	of the city	him It is the sepulchre	of the man	of God		
	H376	H5892	H6913	H376	H430		
אֲשֶׁר	בָּא	מִיְהוּדָה	וַיְקַבֵּל	אֶת	הַדְּבָרִים	לֵאמֹר	
H834	which came	from Judah	and proclaimed	H853	these things		
	H935	H3063	H7121		H1697	H428	
אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה יְיָ	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	בֵּית	אֵל:		
H834	that thou hast done	H5921	against the altar	H0	of Bethel		
	H6213		H4196		H1008		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 13:1** (Sacrifice): And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.