

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיֹּאמֶר וְ	רָא	הָ	רָא	הָ	וַיֹּאמֶר וְ
Then he said	H4100	What title	H1975	is that	H834
H559		H6725		H589	
אֲלֵךְ יְהוָה	בְּעֵיר	בְּקָבֵר	אִישׁ	בְּאֱלֹהִים	
H413	H376	H5892	H6913	H376	H430
אֲשֶׁר	בְּאֵת	מִיהוּךְ הָ	יִקְרָא	אֵת	בְּאֵלָהֶה
H834	H935	H3063	H7121	H853	H428
which came	from Judah	and proclaimed		these things	
H6213				H1697	
אֲלֵךְ בֵּית	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	עַל	עֲשֵׂה יְתָ	אֲשֶׁר	
H834	that thou hast done	H5921	H4196	H0	H1008

Additional Cross-References

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org