

2 Kings 23:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

Analysis

And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 23: Comprehensive reformation cannot avert certain judgment. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. 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

James 2:17 – Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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	לֹא	יְהוָה	אֲלֵיכֶם	יַגְעַל	וְאֶת	עַצְמֹת
And he said	Let him alone	H0	let no man	H408	move	So they let his bone
H559	H3240		H376	H5128		H6106

אֲשֶׁר הַנּוּבִיא אֶת עַצְמָם וְתַּעֲצִמְתָּ בְּיַמְלֹטָיו alone So they let his bones H854 So they let his bones of the prophet H834

מִשְׁמָרָה אֵת
that came out of Samaria

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 13:31 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

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