

2 Kings 23:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Beth-el.

Analysis

And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in 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. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

בָּתִּים	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ וְתַּחַת	רָאשֵׁן	רָאשֵׁן וְתַּחַת
H1571	H853	H3605	And all the houses	also of the high places
			H1004	H1116
בָּעָרֶב	שְׁמָרָן	עָשָׂה	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל
that were in the cities	of Samaria	and did	which the kings	of Israel
H5892	H8111	H834	H6213	H4428
לְפָכֹעַ יְסָדָה	יְהוָה	עָשָׂה	לְקָרְבָּן	כָּל
to provoke the LORD to anger	took away	Josiah	and did	H1992
H3707	H5493	H2977	H6213	H3605
בְּמִשְׁעָשָׁם	רָאשֵׁן	בְּבָתִים	אֶל:	
to them according to all the acts	H834	and did	H0	H1008
H4639		H6213		

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