

2 Kings 23:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

Analysis

And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיֹּצֵא	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֶת	כָּל	הָעָם	לֵאמֹר	עַשׂוּ
commanded	And the king	H853	H3605	all the people	saying	Keep
H6680	H4428			H5971	H559	H6213
פֶּסַח	לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	כַּכְּתוּב	עַל	סֵפֶר	
the passover	unto the LORD	your God	as it is written	H5921	in the book	
H6453	H3068	H430	H3789		H5612	
הַבְּרִית	הַזֶּה:					
of this covenant	H2088					
H1285						