

# 2 Kings 23:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

## Analysis

**Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.**

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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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## 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

אֶת וְגַם	הָאֵלֹהִים וְ	וְאֶת הַדְּעָאִים	וְאֶת
H1571 H853	H178	H853 H3049	H853
Moreover the workers with familiar spirits and the wizards			
וְהַתְּכָפִים	וְאֶת הַגִּלְגָּלִים	וְכָל וְאֵת	הַשִּׁקְצִים
H8655 H853	H1544	H853 H3605	H8251
and the images and the idols and all the abominations			
וְאֵשׁ רַ	וְנִרְאוּ	בְּאֶרֶץ	יְהוּדָה וּבִירֹשָׁלַם
H834	H7200	H776	H3063 H3389
that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem			
וְנִשְׂאֵי הוּ	לְמַעַן	יִבְרַח יְ	דְבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה
H2977	H4616	H853	H1697 H8451
did Josiah that he might perform the words of the law			
וְהַכֹּהֵן	חִלְקִיָּהוּ	מָצָא	אֶת וְהַסֵּפֶר
H3789	H5921	H4672	H834 H5612
which were written that Hilkiah found the priest			
בַּיִת	יְהוָה:		
H1004	H3068		
in the house of the LORD			

## Additional Cross-References

**Leviticus 19:31** (Spirit): Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

**Genesis 31:19** (Parallel theme): And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.

**2 Kings 21:6** (Spirit): And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

**Leviticus 20:27** (Spirit): A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

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