

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וְאַתָּה	וְגַם	בְּאָבָה	וְתָ	וְאַתָּה	בְּדָעֹנִים	וְאַתָּה
H1571	H853	Moreover	the workers	with familiar	spirits	H853
				H178		H3049
וְאַתָּה	בְּתָמְךָ	יְמִ	כָּל	וְאַתָּה	בְּשָׁקָצָ	יְמִ
and the images	H853	and the idols	H1544	H853	and all the abominations	H8251
H8655				H3605		
בְּעֵד	רֹבֵר	וְשָׁלֵם	בְּעֵד	רֹבֵר	וְשָׁלֵם	בְּעֵד
that were spied	H7200	in the land	H776	of Judah	H3063	and in Jerusalem
H834				H3389		H1197
וְאַשְׁר	נִרְאָו	בְּאֶרֶץ	בְּיֹהוָה	וְיְהוָה	וְיְהוָה	וְיְהוָה
וְאַשְׁר	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
did Josiah	H4616	that he might perform	H6965	that he might perform	H853	the words
H2977					H1697	H8451
בְּכֶתֶב	יְמִ	בְּכֶתֶב	יְמִ	בְּכֶתֶב	יְמִ	בְּכֶתֶב
which were written	H5921	in the book	H5612	in the book	H834	in the book
H3789					H4672	H2518
מִזְאָחָת	אֲשֶׁר	מִזְאָחָת	אֲשֶׁר	מִזְאָחָת	אֲשֶׁר	מִזְאָחָת
the priest	H3548	that Hilkiah	H2518	that Hilkiah	H2518	the priest
בְּיַתְהָרָה	בְּיַתְהָרָה	בְּיַתְהָרָה	בְּיַתְהָרָה	בְּיַתְהָרָה	בְּיַתְהָרָה	בְּיַתְהָרָה
in the house	H1004	of the LORD	H3068			

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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