

2 Kings 23:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Analysis

And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

אֲשֶׁר	מִלְּגָד	לֹא יָכֹמֵהוּ	לֹפֶת יְהִי הַ	לֹא	לֹפֶת יְהִי	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
H3644	H3808	H1961	before	And like unto him was there no king					H834
			H6440				H4428		
בְּכָל	לְבָבِ	וְ	בְּכָל	יְהֹוָה	אֶל	בְּכָל	לְבָבِ	וְ	בְּכָל
him that turned	H413	to the LORD	H3605				with all his heart	H3605	
H7725		H3068					H3824		
תֹּוּךְ תְּ	כְּכָל	מְאֹד וְ	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	נְפָשָׁוֹ				
and with all his soul	H3605	and with all his might	H3605				according to all the law	H8451	
H5315		H3966							
מִשְׁה	וְאַתָּה יְ	לֹא	לֹא	וְ	כִּמְהוּנָה				
of Moses	neither after	H3808	him arose	H3644					
H4872	H310		H6965						

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 18:5 (Kingdom): He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.

Jeremiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (References Lord): And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

1 Kings 8:48 (Parallel theme): And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

2 Kings 23:3 (Kingdom): And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the

words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

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