

2 Kings 23:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

Analysis

In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 23: Comprehensive reformation cannot avert certain judgment. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

בְּיָמָיו	עָלָה	פָּרַעַה	נָכַח	הֵמָּלָךְ	מִצְרַיִם	עַל
In his days	went up	H0	Pharaohnechoh	against the king	of Egypt	H5921
H3117	H5927		H6549	H4428	H4714	
הֵמָּלָךְ	אִישׁ	עַל	נָהָר	פָּכַח	וַיִּלָּךְ	הֵמָּלָךְ
against the king	of Assyria	H5921	to the river	Euphrates	H1980	against the king
H4428	H804		H5104	H6578		H4428
יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ	לְקִרְיָת	וְ	וַיְמִיתֵהוּ	בְּמִגְדּוֹ	וְ	כִּרְאֹת
Josiah	against		him and he slew	him at Megiddo		when he had seen
H2977	H7125		H4191	H4023		H7200
אֲתָנוּ:						
H853						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:2 (Kingdom): Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah.

Zechariah 12:11 (Parallel theme): In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

Judges 5:19 (Kingdom): The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.