

Isaiah 36:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if thou say to me, We trust in the LORD our God: is it not he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and said to Judah and to Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar?

Analysis

The accusation that Hezekiah removed the high places (actually an act of faithfulness) is twisted into evidence of God's displeasure. This demonstrates how reforming obedience can be misrepresented as rebellion. The enemy always attempts to redefine righteousness as sin and faithfulness as folly. Hezekiah's reforms (2 Kings 18:4) were covenant faithfulness, not presumption.

Historical Context

Hezekiah's reformation included destroying the bronze serpent Moses made, showing that even God-ordained symbols can become idols. His centralization of worship in Jerusalem followed Deuteronomic law.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced obedience to God being criticized or misunderstood by others?
2. How can godly reforms in your life be misrepresented, and how should you respond?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי H3588	וַיֹּאמֶר H559	אֶל י H413	אֶל H413	יְהוָה H3068	אֱלֹהֵינוּ H430	בָּטְחוּ H982
	But if thou say			in the LORD	our God	to me We trust
הָלוֹא H3808	וְהָיָה H1931	אֲשֶׁר H834	הִסָּר H5493	חֲזַקְיָהוּ H2396	אֶת H853	
			hath taken away	Hezekiah		
בְּמַתִּי H1116	וְהָיָה H853	וְהָיָה H4196	וְהָיָה H4196	וְהָיָה H559	וְהָיָה H3063	לְיְהוּדָה H3063
is it not he whose high places		and whose altars	and whose altars	But if thou say		to Judah
וְלִירֹשָׁלַיִם H3389	לִפְנֵי H6440	וְהָיָה H4196	וְהָיָה H2088	וְהָיָה H7812		
and to Jerusalem	before	and whose altars		Ye shall worship		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 42:5 (Worship): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

1 Corinthians 2:15 (Parallel theme): But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.