

2 Kings 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Analysis

And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 1: Divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 1 takes place during the mid-9th century BCE, around 850 BCE, during the transition from Elijah to Elisha. The chapter's theme (Ahaziah's Illness and Elijah's Final Confrontations) reflects the historical reality of

prophetic succession and divine affirmation of Elisha's ministry following Elijah's remarkable translation. 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 1 regarding divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority?
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

וַעֲנֶה	אֵלֵי הוּא	וַיֹּדֶבֶר	אֵל	שָׂר	חֲמִשִּׁי:	וְאֵם
answered	And Elijah	and said	H413	to the captain	him and his fifty	H518
H6030	H452	H1696		H8269	H2572	
אִישׁ	אֱלֹהִים	אֲנִי	וַיָּרֶד	אֵשׁ	מִן	הַשָּׁמַיִם
If I be a man	of God	H589	And there came down	fire	H4480	from heaven
H376	H430		H3381	H784		H8064
וַתֹּאכַל	אֹתָם	וְאֵת	חֲמִשִּׁי:	וַיָּרֶד	אֵשׁ	מִן
and consume	H853	H853	him and his fifty	And there came down	fire	H4480
H398			H2572	H3381	H784	
מִן	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וַתֹּאכַל	אֹתָם	וְאֵת	חֲמִשִּׁי:	וְאֵת
from heaven	and consume	H853	H853	him and his fifty		
H8064	H398			H2572		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:54 (Parallel theme): And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

Daniel 3:25 (References God): He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Hebrews 12:29 (References God): For our God is a consuming fire.

Daniel 3:22 (Parallel theme): Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

Revelation 11:5 (Parallel theme): And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

Job 1:16 (References God): While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Acts 12:19 (Parallel theme): And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

Psalms 105:15 (Parallel theme): Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Psalms 106:18 (Parallel theme): And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

Matthew 21:41 (Parallel theme): They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.