

2 Kings 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.

Analysis

And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַיָּשָׁב	וַשָּׁלַח ח	שָׂר	חֲמִשָּׁים	הַשְּׁלִישִׁי י	חֲמִשָּׁים	וַיַּעַל
again	And he sent	a captain	fifty	And the third	fifty	went up
H7725	H7971	H8269	H2572	H7992	H2572	H5927
וַיָּבֹא	שָׂר	חֲמִשָּׁים	הַשְּׁלִישִׁי י	וַיִּכַּר ע	עַל	בְּרֶגְלָיו
and came	a captain	fifty	And the third	and fell	H5921	on his knees
H935	H8269	H2572	H7992	H3766		H1290
לִפְנֵי גָד	אֶלֶי הוֹ	וַתִּתְחַנֵּן	אֵלָיו	וַיֹּדֶבֶר	אֵלָיו	אֶל יֵשׁ
before	Elijah	and besought	H413	him and said	H413	unto him O man
H5048	H452	H2603		H1696		H376
הָאֱלֹהִים	תִּיקָר	נָ א	וְנִפְשִׁי	וְנִפְשִׁי		
of God	be precious	H4994	I pray thee let my life	I pray thee let my life		
H430	H3365		H5315	H5315		
עֲבָדֶיךָ	אֵל לָהּ	חֲמִשָּׁים	בְּעֵינֶיךָ:			
thy servants	H428	fifty	in thy sight			
H5650		H2572	H5869			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:5 (Parallel theme): Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.
