

2 Kings 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

Analysis

Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now 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 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

הָיָה	וַיָּבֹא	אֵשׁ	מִן	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וַיִּתְּאֶכֶל	אֶת
H2009	Behold there came	fire	H4480	from heaven	and burnt up	H853
	H3381	H784		H8064	H398	
שְׁנֵי	שָׂרִי	חֲמִשִּׁיּוֹת	הָרִאשֹׁנִים	וְאֵת	חֲמִשִּׁיּוֹת	וְעַתָּה
the two	captains	fifties	of the former	H853	fifties	H6258
H8147	H8269	H2572	H7223		H2572	
תִּיקָר	נִפְּשִׁי	בְּעֵינֶיךָ				
now be precious	therefore let my life	in thy sight				
H3365	H5315	H5869				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:24 (Parallel theme): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

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