

2 Kings 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

Analysis

And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

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 reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

לִקְרָאתִ נָא	עַל יְתָ	אָמַר	אָמַר ר	אָמַר יְ	אָמַר אֶל יְ	אָמַר אֶל שָׁ	אָמַר וְ	אָמַר וְ
And they said	H413	a man	on which thou art gone up	to meet				
	H559	H376	H5927	H7125				
לְכָ ۖ אֶל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ	אָל שָׁבוּ
And they said	H413	H1980	turn again	H413	unto the king	H834	that sent	H7971
	H559		H7725		H4428			
אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה
you and say	H413	H3541	And they said	H559	the LORD	H1097		H369
	H853				H3068			
לִדְרָשׁ	שְׁלֵמָה	אָמַת הָ	בִּשְׁרָאָל					
Is it not because there is not a God	H430	H3478	H859	that sent	to enquire	H7971	H1875	
לְכָ ۖ עַל כִּי	אָלָה	אָלָה	אָלָה	אָלָה	אָלָה	אָלָה	אָלָה	אָלָה
of Baalzebub	H1176	H430	H430	of Ekron	H3651			
	H0			H6138				
לֹא שׁ מ	עַל יְתָ	אָשָׁר	בְּמִטָּה					
from that bed	H834	H5927	on which thou art gone up	H8033	H3808			
	H4296							
תְּרַדְּ	מִמְּנָה	כִּי	תְּמִימּוֹתִ	תְּמִימּוֹתִ	תְּמִימּוֹתִ			
therefore thou shalt not come down	H3381	H4480	H3588	but shalt surely	but shalt surely	H4191	H4191	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 16:4 (References God): Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.

