

2 Kings 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty.
And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an
hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath
said, Come down.

Analysis

Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיֵּלֶךְ	אֵלָיו	שָׂר	וְחֵמֶשׁ יוֹ	וְחֵמֶשׁ יוֹ	וַיֵּלֶךְ
sent	H413	unto him a captain	of fifty	of fifty	And he went up
H7971		H8269	H2572	H2572	H5927
אֵלָיו	וַהֲנֶה	יָשָׁב	עַל	רֹאשׁ	קֶדֶר
H413	H2009	to him and behold he sat	H5921	on the top	of an hill
		H3427		H7218	H2022
וַיִּדְבָּר	אֵלָיו	אָיִשׁ	קְדֹלָה יִם	הַמֶּלֶךְ	לֵךְ
And he spake	H413	unto him Thou man	of God	Then the king	
H1696		H376	H430	H4428	
וַיִּדְבָּר	נִדְּחָה:				
And he spake	Come down				
H1696	H3381				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:36 (Kingdom): And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Mark 15:29 (Parallel theme): And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

Mark 15:32 (Kingdom): Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

Matthew 14:3 (Parallel theme): For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Matthew 26:68 (Parallel theme): Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Matthew 27:29 (Kingdom): And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Amos 7:12 (Parallel theme): Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

1 Kings 18:4 (Parallel theme): For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 22:8 (Kingdom): And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

1 Kings 18:10 (Kingdom): As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.