

2 Kings 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying,

Analysis

And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying,

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 10: Zeal for God without heart transformation. 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 10 takes place during Jehu's dynasty and the violent purge of Baal worship, around 841 BCE. The chapter's theme (Jehu's Purge Continues) reflects the historical reality of violent political revolution motivated by zeal for Yahweh but lacking genuine heart transformation. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 10 regarding zeal for God without heart transformation?
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

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| סִפֵּר יָם | יְהוּא | וַיִּכְתֹּב | שָׁמַר וִן | בְּנֵי יָם | שִׁבְעֵי יָם | אַחָא ב |
| letters | And Jehu | wrote | in Samaria | sons | had seventy | Ahab's |
| H5612 | H3058 | H3789 | H8111 | H1121 | H7657 | H256 |
| וְאֵל | הַזִּקְנֵי יָם | יִזְרְעֵאל | שָׁרֵי י | אֶל | שָׁמַר וִן | וְשָׁלַח |
| H413 | to the elders | of Jezreel | unto the rulers | H413 | in Samaria | and sent |
| | H2205 | H3157 | H8269 | | H8111 | H7971 |
| לְאָמְרָ: | אַחָא ב | הָאֵמָנִי יָם | | | | |
| children saying | Ahab's | and to them that brought up | | | | |
| H559 | H256 | H539 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 13:32 (Parallel theme): For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

Judges 8:30 (Parallel theme): And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: for he had many wives.

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