

2 Kings 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that was over the house, and he that was over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of the children, sent to Jehu, saying, We are thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king: do thou that which is good in thine eyes.

Analysis

And he that was over the house, and he that was over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of the children, sent to Jehu, saying, We are thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king: do thou that which is good in thine eyes.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 10: Zeal for God without heart transformation. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְשַׁלְּחֵנִי	עַל	אֲשֶׁר	הַבָּיִת	עַל	אֲשֶׁר
of the children sent	H834	H5921	And he that was over the house	H834	H5921
	H7971			H1004	
בְּעַד יְרֵאָה	וּבְזָקְנִים	וּבְאָמְנִים	אֶל	יְהָוָה	אֶל
and he that was over the city	H2205	the elders	also and the bringers up	H413	to Jehu
	H5892			H539	
תָּאִמְּרָה רָאשָׁה	עֲבָדִים יְהָבָשִׁים	אֲשֶׁר וְכֹל אֶת חַנּוֹתָיו	אֲשֶׁר וְכֹל אֶת חַנּוֹתָיו		
all that thou shalt bid	H5650	We are thy servants	H587	H3605	H834
	H559				
תָּאִמְּרָה רָאשָׁה:	אֶל יְהָבָשִׁים	לֹא נָמַל בָּהּ	אֲשֶׁר		
all that thou shalt bid	H413	and will do	H3808	H4427	H376
	H559	H6213			
בְּעֵינֵיךְ	עֲשָׂה:	נָמַל בָּהּ	אֲשֶׁר		
thou that which is good	H5869	and will do	H6213		
	H2896				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 9:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us.

1 Kings 20:4 (Kingdom): And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

1 Kings 20:32 (Kingdom): So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Ben-hadad saith, I pray thee, let me live. And he said, Is he yet alive? he is my brother.

Joshua 9:8 (Parallel theme): And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye?

2 Kings 18:14 (Kingdom): And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

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