

2 Kings 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying, If ye be mine, and if ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by to morrow this time. Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up.

Analysis

Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying, If ye be mine, and if ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by to morrow this time. Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיִּכְתֹּב ב	אֵלֵיהֶם	סֵפֶר	שֵׁנִי ית	לָאֲמָר	אֵם	לִי
Then he wrote	H413	a letter	the second time	to them saying	H518	H0
H3789		H5612	H8145	H559		
אֶת־	וּלְקוֹלִי	אֶת־	שָׁמַעַ ים	קָחוּ	אֶת־	
H859	unto my voice	H859	If ye be mine and if ye will hearken	take	H853	
	H6963		H8085	H3947		
רָאשֵׁי	אֲנֹשִׁים	וּבְנֵי י	אֲדֹנֶיכֶם	וּבֹאוּ	אֵלַי	כָּעַתָּה
ye the heads	persons	sons	your master's	and come	H413	this time
H7218	H376	H1121	H113	H935		H6256
מָחָר	יִזְרְעֵל אֵלַי	וּבְנֵי י	הַמֶּלֶךְ	שִׁבְעִים ים	אֲנֹשִׁים	
by to morrow	to me to Jezreel	sons	Now the king's	being seventy	persons	H854
H4279	H3157	H1121	H4428	H7657	H376	
גְּדֹלֵי י	הָעִיר	מִגְדָּל ים	אוֹתָם:			
were with the great men	of the city	which brought them up	H853			
H1419	H5892	H1431				