

2 Kings 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

כָּבֹא אֵינֶה י'	הָסֵפָר	אֵלֶיהָ מֵ
H1961		H413
came	And it came to pass when the letter	
H935	H5612	
וַתִּקְחוּ	אֶת בְּנֵי יְהוֹרָם	וַיַּשְׁחֲטוּ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָ
	H853	
to them that they took	sons	the king's
H3947	H1121	H4428
		and slew
		H7819
		seventy
		H7657
		persons
		H376
וַיָּשֶׂם יְהוֹרָם	אֶת רִאשֵׁיהֶם	בַּדִּוּדִים וַיִּשְׁלַח וְאֵל יְהוֹרָם
and put	their heads	in baskets
H7760	H7218	H1731
		and sent
		H7971
		him them to Jezreel
		H3157

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 21:21 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,

2 Kings 11:1 (Parallel theme): And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org