

2 Kings 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning.

Analysis

And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַיָּבֹאוּ	הַמַּלְאָךְ	וַיֹּד	לֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיָּבֹאוּ
And there came	a messenger	and told	H0	And he said	And there came
H935	H4397	H5046		H559	H935
רָאשֵׁי	בָנָי	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר	שְׁ יָמֹ	אֶתְּ
the heads	sons	of the king's	And he said	Lay	H853
H7218	H1121	H4428	H559	H7760	ye them in two
					H8147
צִבְרֵי	פְּ תַח	הַשַּׁעַר	עַד	הַבֹּקֶר:	
heaps	at the entering in	of the gate	H5704	until the morning	
H6652	H6607	H8179		H1242	