

2 Kings 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

Analysis

Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 12: Religious reform and temple restoration. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. This passage occurs during the decline toward Israel's exile, demonstrating how persistent covenant unfaithfulness leads to national disaster.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 12 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Joash Repairs the Temple) reflects the historical reality of progressive political instability and external threats, particularly from Aram (Syria) and later Assyria. 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 12 regarding religious reform and temple restoration?
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

גַּת עַל יְלִכְתָּה לְעַל וְתַּאֲזִין מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם אֶת־מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם
H227 to go up H2371 Then Hazael H4428 king H758 of Syria H3898 and fought H5921 against Gath H1661

וְיָרַשְׁלָם עַל לְעַל וְתַּפְנִית יְלִכְתָּה וְיָשַׁם
H3920 and took H7760 set H2371 Then Hazael H6440 his face H5927 to go up H5921 to Jerusalem H3389