

2 Kings 13:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died.
And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept
over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of
Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

Analysis

Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 13: God's patience with recurring apostasy. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. 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 13 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Decline of Israel and Judah) 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 13 regarding god's patience with recurring apostasy?
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

וְאֵלִישָׁע	חָלָה	אֶת	חָלִיו	אֲשֶׁר	יָמֹת	בּוֹ
Now Elisha	was fallen sick	H854	of his sickness	H834	whereof he died	H0
H477	H2470		H2483		H4191	
וַיָּרֶד	אֵלָיו	וַיֹּאמֶר	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיִּבֶן	עַל
came down	H413	And Joash	the king	of Israel	unto him and wept	H5921
H3381		H3101	H4428	H3478	H1058	
פָּנָיו	וַיֹּאמֶר	אָבִי	אָבִי	רֶכֶב	יִשְׂרָאֵל	
over his face	and said	O my father	O my father	the chariot	of Israel	
H6440	H559	H1	H1	H7393	H3478	
וּפָרָשָׁיו:						
and the horsemen						
H6571						

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 2:12 (References Israel): And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

Philippians 2:26 (Parallel theme): For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

John 11:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

Genesis 48:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 Kings 20:1 (Parallel theme): In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

