

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

בְּ וְ יָמִם וְתָאַלְיָשָׁע
Now Elisha was fallen sick H477 H2470 H854 H2483 H834 whereof he died H0 H4191

עַל יְמִים וְתָאַלְיָשָׁע
came down H3381 H413 And Joash the king of Israel unto him and wept H5921 H1058

וְתָאַלְיָשָׁע
over his face and said O my father O my father the chariot of Israel H6440 H559 H1 H4428 H3478 H7393 H3478

וְתָאַלְיָשָׁע:
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.

