

2 Kings 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow.
And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon
the king's hands.

Analysis

And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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 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

וַיֹּאמֶר	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיָּבֶן	יָדָיו	עַל	הַקֶּשֶׁת
And he said	to the king	of Israel	And he put	hands	H5921	upon the bow
H559	H4428	H3478	H7392	H3027		H7198
וַיָּבֶן	יָדָיו	וַיִּשֶׁם	אֶלְיָשָׁע	יָדָיו	עַל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:
And he put	hands	put	upon it and Elisha	hands	H5921	to the king
H7392	H3027	H7760	H477	H3027		H4428