

2 Kings 13:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

Analysis

And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 13: God's patience with recurring apostasy. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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	וַיִּפְתָּח	הַחַלּוֹן	קִדְמָה	וַיִּפְתָּח	וַיֹּאמֶר
And he said	And he opened	the window	eastward	And he opened	And he said
H559	H6605	H2474	H6924	H6605	H559
אֵלִישָׁע	וַיִּזְרֹק	וַיִּזְרֹק	וַיֹּאמֶר	וְחֵץ	תְּשׁוּעָה
it Then Elisha	And he shot	And he shot	And he said	The arrow	deliverance
H477	H3384	H3384	H559	H2671	H8668
לַיהוָה	וְחֵץ	תְּשׁוּעָה	אֶבְרָם	וְהִכִּיתָ	אֶת
of the LORD'S	The arrow	deliverance	from Syria	for thou shalt smite	
H3068	H2671	H8668	H758	H5221	H853
אֶבְרָם	בְּאַפֶּק	עַד	כָּלָה:		
from Syria	in Aphek	H5704	till thou have consumed		
H758	H663		H3615		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 20:26 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Ben-hadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (Parallel theme): For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.