

2 Kings 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

Analysis

For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 15: Political chaos reveals spiritual bankruptcy. 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 15 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Rapid Succession and Instability) 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 15 regarding political chaos reveals spiritual bankruptcy?
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

בָּשָׁמָר וְלִזְבָּא	מִתְרָאצָה	בְּנֵי	גָּדִי	מִנְחָה	וְעַזְלָל	וַיֵּלֶךְ
went up	For Menahem	the son	of Gadi	from Tirzah	and came	in Samaria
H5927	H4505	H1121	H1424	H8656	H935	H8111
וַיִּמְחִית הָוֹם בָּשָׁמָר וְלִזְבָּא אֶת שָׁלָל וְמִן אֶת בְּנֵי יְשָׁבֵת יְהוּדָה						
and smote	Shallum	the son	of Jabesh	in Samaria	and slew	
H5221	H7967	H1121	H3003	H8111	H4191	
וְיִמְלֶךְ הָיָה בָּשָׁמָר וְלִזְבָּא						
him and reigned						
H4427	H8478					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:17 (Parallel theme): And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;