

2 Kings 15:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

Analysis

And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 15: Political chaos reveals spiritual bankruptcy. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

כָּל	עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַל	כֶּסֶף	אֶת	מִנֵּה	וַיֵּצֵא
		of Israel		of silver		And Menahem	exacted
H3605	H5921	H3478	H5921	H3701	H853	H4505	H3318
חֲמִשָּׁה יָם	אֲשׁוּר	מֶלֶךְ	לָתֵת	הֵם יָל	גְּבוּרֵי י		
	of Assyria	So the king	to give	of wealth	even of all the mighty men		
H2572	H804	H4428	H5414	H2428	H1368		
וְלֹא	אֲשׁוּר	מֶלֶךְ	וַיָּשָׁב	אֶחָד	לֹא יֵשׁ	כֶּסֶף	שְׁקָלֵי יָם
	of Assyria	So the king	turned back	of each	man	of silver	shekels
H3808	H804	H4428	H7725	H259	H376	H3701	H8255
						שָׁם	וַיָּמָד
						not there in the land	and stayed
						H776	H5975

