

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

וַיַּצַּא	מִן־חַמֵּם	אֶת	סֶף	כֶּבֶשׂ	עַל	לִשְׁבָא	לְ	כָּל	עַל	וַיַּצַּא
exacted	And Menahem	H853	of silver	H5921	of Israel	H5921		H3605		
H3318	H4505		H3701		H3478					
גָּבוֹר	יְמִינָה	לְתַתָּה	בְּמִיל	מִלְּגָד	וְרָאשָׁה	סְמִשָּׁה	יְמִינָה	אַשְׁר	וְרָאשָׁה	סְמִשָּׁה
even of all the mighty men	of wealth	to give	So the king	of Assyria	fifty					
H1368	H2428	H5414	H4428	H804	H2572					
שְׁקָלִים	אֶת־שֶׁבֶשׂ	אֶת־דָּבָר	לֹא־יָשַׁב	מִלְּגָד	מִלְּגָד	אַשְׁר	וְרָאשָׁה	סְמִשָּׁה	וְרָאשָׁה	סְמִשָּׁה
shekels	of silver	man	of each	turned back	So the king	of Assyria	fifty			
H8255	H3701	H376	H259	H7725	H4428	H804	H3808			
בְּאָרֶץ										
and stayed	not there in the land									
H5975	H8033		H776							

