

2 Kings 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.

Analysis

In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְלֹךְ לְעֹזֶר הַשְׁנִיתִים: שָׁמֶשׁ יְמִינָה
and reigned two years In the fiftieth and reigned two years of Azariah king
H8141 H2572 H8141 H5838 H4428

וְלֹךְ יְהוּדָה בֶּן פְּקָהִיא הַמְנַחֵם עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל
of Judah began to reign Pekahiah the son of Menahem over Israel
H3063 H4427 H6494 H1121 H4505 H5921 H3478

בָּשָׁמְרָה בְּשָׁנִיתִים: שָׁמֶשׁ יְמִינָה
in Samaria and reigned two years
H8111 H8141

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