

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

שְׁנַתִּים:	חֲמִשָּׁן יָמִים	שְׁנַתִּים:	לְעֶזְרָה הַ	מֶלֶךְ
and reigned two years	In the fiftieth	and reigned two years	of Azariah	king
H8141	H2572	H8141	H5838	H4428
יְהוּדָה הַ	מֶלֶךְ לָרָא	פֶּקַחִיָּה הַ	בֶּן	מְנַחֵם
of Judah	began to reign	Pekahiah	the son	of Menahem
H3063	H4427	H6494	H1121	H4505
בְּשֶׁמֶר וְ	שְׁנַתִּים:			
in Samaria	and reigned two years			
H8111	H8141			