

2 Kings 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him.

Analysis

Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 16: Desperate alliances and religious compromise. 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 16 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Ahaz's Apostasy) reflects the historical reality of desperate political alliances and religious syncretism as Judah faced external threats. 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 16 regarding desperate alliances and religious compromise?
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

מֶלֶךְ רַמְלִי הָוּ מֶלֶךְ בָּנָי אֶצְבָּעַל הָאֶצְבָּעַל
H227 came up H5927 H7526 Then Rezin king H4428 H758 of Syria H6492 and Pekah son H1121 of Remaliah king H4425 H4428

לְמַלְתָּמָת הָיְרָשֶׁלָּם וְשָׁבָא לְעַל אֶצְבָּעַל
of Israel to Jerusalem to war and they besieged H5921 Ahaz H3808 H271 H6696 H4421 H3389 H3478

לְהַלְּקָמָה יָכַל אֶת
but could not overcome H3898 H3201

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 15:37 (Kingdom): In those days the LORD began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah.