

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	בֶּן	וּפֶקַח	אֶרֶם	מֶלֶךְ	רָצַח	יָשָׁע	אֶזְרָא
king	son	and Pekah	of Syria	king	Then Rezin	came up	H227
H4428	H1121	H6492	H758	H4428	H7526	H5927	
וְלֹא	אָחָז	עָלָה	וַיִּצְרּוּ	לְמִלְחָמָה	יְרוּשָׁלַם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	
	Ahaz	H5921	and they besieged	to war	to Jerusalem	of Israel	
	H271		H6696	H4421	H3389	H3478	
לְהִלָּחֵם:	יָכֹל	וְ					
not overcome	but could						
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.