

2 Kings 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

Analysis

At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

אֵילַת	אֶת	לְאֶרֶץ	מֶלֶךְ	רִצְיִן	הַשִּׁיב	הָיָא	בָּעֵת
Elath	H853	of Syria	king	Rezin	recovered	H1931	At that time
H359		H758	H4428	H7526	H7725		H6256
בָּאוּ	וְאַרְמִי	אֵילַת	הַיְּהוּדִים	אֶת	וַיִּבֶשׂ	לְאֶרֶץ	מֶלֶךְ
came	and the Syrians	Elath	the Jews	H853	and drave	of Syria	
H935	H726	H359	H3064		H5394	H758	
הַזֶּה:	הַיּוֹם	עַד	שָׁם	וַיִּשְׁבוּ	אֵילַת		
H2088	there unto this day	H5704	H8033	and dwelt	Elath		
	H3117			H3427	H359		

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 14:22 (Kingdom): He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

Deuteronomy 2:8 (Parallel theme): And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Ezion-gaber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

1 Kings 9:26 (Kingdom): And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.

2 Chronicles 26:2 (Kingdom): He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

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