

2 Kings 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field.

Analysis

And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 18: Faithful reformation faces external pressure. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 18 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (Hezekiah's Reforms and Assyrian Threat) reflects the historical reality of genuine religious reform under Hezekiah, including trust in God that resulted in miraculous deliverance from 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 18 regarding faithful reformation faces external pressure?
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

וַיְשַׁלַּח	לְרַבְנָה	אֶשְׁר	וְרַבְנָה	אֶת	תַּרְתָּן	רַבְנָה	וְאֶת	וְרַבְנָה	יְסָרִים
sent	And the king	of Assyria		H853	Tartan	H853	HO	and Rabsaris	
H7971	H4428	H804			H8661			H7249	
וְאֶת	חִזְקִיָּהוּ	לְרַבְנָה	אֶל	לְכַיּוֹן	מִן	בְּרַשְׁקָה	הַר	וְאֶת	
	and Rabshakeh		H413	And the king	H3923	from Lachish		H2396	Hezekiah
	H7262								
בְּתִיכְנָה	יְהוָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	
host	with a great	against Jerusalem	And they went up	And they went up	and came	and came	and came	and came	
H2426	H3515	H3389		H5927					
בְּתִיכְנָה	יְהוָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	בְּתִיכְנָה	
against Jerusalem	And they went up	and came	and came	and stood	and stood	and stood	and stood	and stood	by the conduit
H3389	H5927	H935		H5975					H8585
בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	בְּמַסְלֵת	
pool	of the upper	H834	which is in the highway	H4546					
H1295	H5945								
כּוֹבֵס	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	שֵׁדֶה	
of the fuller's	H3526								

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 20:1 (Kingdom): In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;

Isaiah 7:3 (Parallel theme): Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shear-jashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field;

2 Kings 20:20 (Kingdom): And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

Isaiah 36:2 (Kingdom): And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem unto king Hezekiah with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field.

