

2 Kings 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.

Analysis

Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְעַתָּה H6258	הֵתָּעָרְבָה H6148	אֶתְּנֶה H4994	אֶתְּנֶה H854	אֶתְּנֶה יְיָ H853	אֶתְּנֶה H113
Now therefore I pray thee give pledges				to my lord	
מֶלֶךְ H4428	אֲשׁוּר H804	לְתֵת H5414	לְךָ H0	אֶלְפֵי יָם H505	סוּסֵי יָם H518
the king	of Assyria	and I will deliver	thee two thousand	horses	
תּוֹכֵל H3201	לְתֵת H5414	לְךָ H0	רֹכְבֵי יָם H7392	עַלֵיהֶם: H5921	
if thou be able	and I will deliver		riders		

