

2 Kings 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

Analysis

He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 18: Faithful reformation faces external pressure. 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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

הָא	ה	הַ	הַ	אֶת	פָּלָשָׁת	יְמִ	עַ	עַ	ה	עַ	אֶת
H1931	He	smote	H853	the	Philistines	H6430	H5704	even	unto	Gaza	H853
		H5221						H5804			
גְּבוּל	יְ	לְ	מִקְנָה	לְ	נֹצֶר	יְמִ	עַ	ירִ	עַ	מִבְּאָרָה	
and	the	borders	thereof	from	the	tower	of	the	watchmen	to	the
H1366			H4026				H5341	H5704	city	H4013	fenced

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 14:29 (Parallel theme): Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

2 Kings 17:9 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

2 Chronicles 28:18 (Parallel theme): The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederoth, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.

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