

2 Kings 19:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel.

Analysis

By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 19: Faith vindicated through divine intervention. 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 19 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (God Delivers

Jerusalem) 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

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 19 regarding faith vindicated through divine intervention?
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

וְתִּאמֶר אֶלְךָ בָּנָי דָּבָר
By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord and hast said

H3027 H4397 H2778 H136 H559

מִרְאֵם וְעַל יְתִי בָּרְכֵב אָנָּי רְכֵב
With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height

H7230 H7393 H589 H5927 H4791

אֶלְכֵי קְוֹמָת אֶאָכֶר תַּבְּכֵי יְמֵי לְבָנָן וְיַרְכֵת
of the mountains to the sides of Lebanon and will cut down the tall cedar trees

H2022 H3411 H3844 H3772 H6967 H730

מִלְּוָן וְאָב וְאָהָה בָּרְשֵׁן מִבְּחֵן וּר
thereof and the choice fir trees thereof and I will enter into the lodgings

H4004 H1265 H935 H4411

פְּרַמְלָא: בָּרְכֵב אֲלֵהֶן וְעַר
of his borders and into the forest of his Carmel

H7093 H3293 H3760

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 20:7 (References Lord): Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

2 Kings 18:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 10:18 (Parallel theme): And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standardbearer fainteth.

