

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

וְתֵן אָמַר	אֲדֹנָי	חָבַר פָּתָא	מִלְאֲכָיִךְ	בְּיָד
and hast said	the Lord	thou hast reproached	thy messengers	By
H559	H136	H2778	H4397	H3027
מֵרֹם	עַל יְתִי	אֲנִי	רֶכֶב־י	בְּרַב כַּב
to the height	I am come up	H589	of my chariots	With the multitude
H4791	H5927		H7393	H7230
אֲרָזָיו	קוֹמֵת	וְאָכַרְתָּ	לְבָנוֹן	יֶרֶכְתִּי
cedar trees	the tall	and will cut down	of Lebanon	to the sides
H730	H6967	H3772	H3844	H3411
מִלְּוֹן	וְאֵב וְאָה	בְּרֶשֶׁת יוֹ	מִבְּחֹר	
into the lodgings	thereof and I will enter	fir trees	thereof and the choice	
H4411	H935	H1265	H4004	
בְּרִמְלֹחַ	יָ עֵר	קִצְ הַ		
of his Carmel	and into the forest	of his borders		
H3760	H3293	H7093		

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.

