

2 Kings 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.

Analysis

So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 19: Faith vindicated through divine intervention. 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 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיָּשָׁב	רַב־שָׁקָה ה	וַיִּמְצָא	אֶת	מֶלֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	נִלְחָם	עַל
returned	So Rabshakeh	and found	H853	the king	of Assyria	warring	H5921
H7725	H7262	H4672		H4428	H804	H3898	
לְבִנָּה ה	כִּי	שָׁמָע	כִּי	נִסַּע	מִלַּחְשׁוֹ:		
against Libnah	H3588	for he had heard	H3588	that he was departed	from Lachish		
H3841		H8085		H5265	H3923		

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 18:14 (Kingdom): And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou putttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

Joshua 10:29 (Parallel theme): Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, unto Libnah, and fought against Libnah:

