

2 Kings 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

Analysis

And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 2: Prophetic succession and confirmation of divine calling. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 2 takes place during the mid-9th century BCE, around 850 BCE, during the transition from Elijah to Elisha. The chapter's theme (Elijah's Translation and Elisha's Beginning) reflects the historical reality of prophetic succession and divine affirmation of Elisha's ministry following Elijah's remarkable translation. 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 2 regarding prophetic succession and confirmation of divine calling?
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

וַיֵּרָא הוּא	בְּנֵי	הַנְּבִיאִים	אֲשֶׁר	בִּירִיחוֹ		
saw	And when the sons	of the prophets	H834	which were to view at Jericho		
H7200	H1121	H5030		H3405		
מִן גֹּד	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	נָחָה	רוּחַ	אֵלֵי הוּא	עַל	אֵלִישָׁה ע
H5048	him they said	doth rest	The spirit	of Elijah	H5921	on Elisha
	H559	H5117	H7307	H452		H477
וַיָּבֹאוּ	לִקְרֹאתוֹ	וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ	לּוֹ	אֶרְצָה:		
And they came	to meet	him and bowed	H0	themselves to the ground		
H935	H7125	H7812		H776		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:8 (Spirit): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1 Peter 4:14 (Spirit): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

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