

2 Kings 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.

Analysis

And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 2: Prophetic succession and confirmation of divine calling. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אָמַר	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלַי	הִנֵּה	נָא	יֵשׁ	אֵת
And he said	H559	H413	H2009	H4994	unto him Behold now there be	H854
					H3426	
עֲבָדֶיךָ	חֲמִשָּׁים	אֲנָשִׁים	בָּנֵי	חַלְלִים	לָכֹךָ	נָא
with thy servants	H5650	fifty	H376	men	strong	H4994
		H2572		H1121	H2428	
וַיְבַקֵּשׁ וְ	אֵת	אֲדֹנָיִךָ	פֶּן	נִשְׂאוֹ		
we pray thee and seek	H853	thy master	H6435	hath taken him up		
	H1245	H113		H5375		
רֹחַ	יְהוָה	וְשָׁלַח הוּא	בְּאַחַת	הַהָרִים		
lest peradventure the Spirit	of the LORD	and cast	him upon some	mountain		
	H7307	H3068	H7993	H259	H2022	
אֲנִי	בְּאַחַת	הַגִּיאֹת	וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	תִשְׁלַחְנִי:	
H176	him upon some	valley	And he said	H3808	Ye shall not send	
	H259	H1516	H559		H7971	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:12 (Spirit): And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

Acts 8:39 (Spirit): And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.