

# 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

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**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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

בְּאֵלֶּה יְאֹמֵר	בְּנֵי אָנָשׁ יְמִינֵי	עֲבָדִים	בְּנֵי אָנָשׁ יְמִינֵי	עֲבָדִים	בְּנֵי אָנָשׁ יְמִינֵי	עֲבָדִים
And he said	unto him	Behold now there be	unto him	Behold now there be	unto him	Behold now there be
H413	H2009	H4994	H3426	H854	H3426	H854
H559			H3426			
with thy servants	fifty	H376	men	strong	H1980	H4994
H5650	H2572	H1121	H2428			
we pray thee and seek	את	אדָנִים	פָּנָים	נִשְׁאָו		
H1245	H853	H113	H6435	hath taken him up	H5375	
lest peradventure the Spirit	יהִנֵּה הַ	וַיָּשַׁלַּכְ	בָּאָמֵת תְּ			
H7307	H3068	H7993	H259			
him upon some	of the LORD	and cast	him upon some			
וְאַתָּה יְאֹמֵר	בְּאֵלֶּה יְאֹמֵר	לְאֵלֶּה תְּשַׁלַּח	תְּשַׁלְּחוּ			
H176	H1516	H559	H3808	Ye shall not send	H7971	
him upon some	valley	And he said				
H259						

## 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.