

# 2 Kings 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.

## Analysis

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**And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.**

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

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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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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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

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וְנִפְצְרוּ	ב ו	עַד	ב ש	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיִּשְׁלַח	
And when they urged	H0	H5704	him till he was ashamed	he said	Send	
H6484			H954	H559	H7971	
וַיִּשְׁלַח	כִּמְשֵׁי יָמִים	אֲנָשִׁים	וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ	שְׁלֹשָׁה	יָמִים	וְלֹא
Send	therefore fifty	men	and they sought	three	days	H3808
H7971	H2572	H376	H1245	H7969	H3117	
מָצָאָהּ:						
but found						
H4672						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 8:11** (Parallel theme): And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.