

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

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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְיִשְׁלַחְתִּי	בְּשָׁמָרְךָ	בְּבָבִלְיָה	עַד	וְיִפְצַרְתָּ
And when they urged	H0	H5704	him till he was ashamed	H954
H6484				H559
he said			he said	H7971
וְיִשְׁלַחְתִּי	בְּשָׁמָרְךָ	בְּבָבִלְיָה	עַד	וְיִפְצַרְתָּ
Send	therefore fifty	men	and they sought	three
H7971	H2572	H376	H1245	H7969
וְיִשְׁלַחְתִּי	בְּשָׁמָרְךָ	בְּבָבִלְיָה	עַד	וְיִפְצַרְתָּ
but found				
H4672				

Additional Cross-References

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