

# 2 Kings 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

## Analysis

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**And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go 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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by 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

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בִּרְיכָה זֶה וְיַעֲשֵׂה בְּנֵי יִהְוָה וְאֶל יְהָוָה  
And when they came again      H7725      H413      to him (for he tarried      at Jericho  
H3427      H3405

תָּלַכְתִּי אֶל אֶלְيָךְ מִן אֶמְרָתִי בְּלֹא אֶלְיָהּ מִן אֶמְרָתִי  
he said      H413      H3808      he said      H413      H408      H1980  
H559

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