

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

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

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

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

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

וַיָּשׁוּ בוֹ	וְהָיָה וְאֵל יוֹ	יֵשׁ בְּ	בִּירְיֵחוֹ וְ
And when they came again	to him (for he tarried	at Jericho	
H7725	H413 H1931	H3427	H3405
אָמַר רְתִי	הֲלֹא אֵלֶּה ׀	אָמַר רְתִי	אֵל אֵלֶיךָ ׀
he said	he said		
H559	H413 H3808	H413	H408 H1980
	H559		