

2 Kings 2:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

Analysis

And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וַיַּפְנִית	בְּשָׂם	יְקַלֵּל מֵ	וַיַּרְא מֵ	אָמַר	וַיְקַלֵּל מֵ	בְּשָׂם
And he turned	back	and looked	on them	and cursed	them in the name	
H6437	H310	H7200		H7043		H8034
יְהִי הָ	מִן	צְבָא	וְשָׁתְּ	וְתַחַת אַתָּה	מִן צְבָא	בְּעֵר
of the LORD	And there came forth	and two	she bears	H4480	out of the wood	
H3068	H3318	H8147	H1677		H3293	
עַבְדָּה	וְלֹא יְמִת	וְלֹא יְמִת	וְלֹא יְמִת	וְלֹא יְמִת	וְלֹא יְמִת	וְלֹא יְמִת
and tare	H1992	forty	and two	children		
H1234		H705	H8147	H3206		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:9 (References Lord): Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Acts 5:5 (Parallel theme): And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Amos 7:17 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.

Acts 8:20 (Parallel theme): But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Jeremiah 28:16 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD.

Mark 11:21 (Curse): And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

Mark 11:14 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

Exodus 20:5 (References Lord): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Genesis 9:25 (Curse): And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

1 Kings 19:17 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.