

2 Kings 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

Analysis

And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

אָל 1 יִצְאָה בְּנֵי בְּנֵי יְמִינְיָה אֲשֶׁר בֵּית אֲלֹהִים
Al 1 came forth And the sons of the prophets H834 H0 that were at Bethel H413
H3318 H1121 H5030 H1008 H413

יְהִי הִנֵּה כִּי יְהִי עַתִּי אַל יֹאמֶר אֶל־יְשֻׁעָה
to Elisha And he said H413 Yea I know H3588 to day H3117 thou that the LORD
H477 H559 H3045 H3117 H3068

אָנָּה לְקַרְבָּן אֶת אָדָן יְבָנָה מֵעַל רָאשֵׁךְ וְיֹאמֶר
will take away H853 thy master H113 from thy head And he said H1571 H589
H3947 H2814 H5921 H7218 H559

תְּחִשּׂוּ: יְהִי עַתִּי
Yea I know it hold ye your peace
H3045 H2814

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 4:38 (Prophecy): And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.

2 Kings 4:1 (Prophecy): Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

1 Kings 20:35 (Prophecy): And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him.

2 Kings 9:1 (Prophecy): And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead:

