

2 Kings 20:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

Analysis

And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 20: God's mercy and human presumption. 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. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 20 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery) reflects the historical reality of genuine religious reform under Hezekiah, including trust in God that resulted in miraculous deliverance from Assyria. 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

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 20 regarding god's mercy and human presumption?
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

וַיִּקְרָא אֶת	וַיִּשְׁעֵהוּ הוּא	הַנָּבִי יֵא	אֶל	יְהוָה ה	וַיָּבֵא	אֶת
cried	And Isaiah	the prophet	H413	unto the LORD	and he brought	H853
H7121	H3470	H5030		H3068	H7725	
לְ	בַּמַּעֲלוֹת	אֲשֶׁר	יָרַד ה	מַעֲלוֹת:	אֶחָז	
the shadow	H4600	H834	which it had gone down	by	of Ahaz	
H6738			H3381	H4609	H271	
אֲחֵרָנָה יֵת	עֶשְׂרִי	מַעֲלוֹת:				
backward	ten	by				
H322	H6235	H4609				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 38:8 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

2 Chronicles 32:24 (References Lord): In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.

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