

2 Kings 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

Analysis

At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 20: God's mercy and human presumption. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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

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 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

בְּעֵת	הַיָּהוָה	שָׁלַח	בְּרָאדָן	בֶּלְאֲדָן	בֶּן	בֶּלְאֲדָן
At that time	H1931	sent	H0	Berodachbaladan	the son	of Baladan
H6256		H7971		H1255	H1121	H1081
מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	סִפְּרָה	וּמִנְחָה	אֶל	חִזְקִיָּהוּ	כִּי
king	of Babylon	letters	and a present	H413	that Hezekiah	H3588
H4428	H894	H5612	H4503		H2396	
שָׁמַע	כִּי	חָלָה	חִזְקִיָּהוּ			
for he had heard	H3588	had been sick	that Hezekiah			
H8085		H2470	H2396			

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 32:31 (References Babylon): Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org