

2 Kings 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon.

Analysis

Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon.

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. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיָּבֹא	וַיִּשְׁעֵהוּ	הַנָּבִיא	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	חֲזַקְיָהוּ	וַיֹּאמֶר
Then came	Isaiah	the prophet	H413	unto king	Hezekiah	and said
H935	H3470	H5030		H4428	H2396	H559
וַיָּבֹא	מֵהָ	וַיֹּאמֶר	הָאֶרֶץ	הַזֹּאת	וּמֵאֵן	וַיָּבֹא
H413	H4100	and said	H376	H428	and from whence	Then came
		H559			H370	H935
וַיָּבֹא	וַיֹּאמֶר	חֲזַקְיָהוּ	מֵאֵן	רְחוֹקָה	וַיָּבֹא	
H413	and said	Hezekiah	country	from a far	Then came	
	H559	H2396	H776	H7350	H935	
מִבָּבֶל:						
even from Babylon						
H894						