

2 Kings 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

Analysis

And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

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. 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

יְהִי הַ	מֵאַת	פָּאֹת	לְבָ	זֶה	וְשָׁעִ	הָוֶ	וְאַתָּה	יֹאמֶר
said	And Isaiah	H2088	H0	This sign	H853	shalt thou have of the LORD		
H559	H3470			H226		H3068		
וְאַתָּה	פָּזֶב	רָ	אָשָׁר	יְהִי הַ	אַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
H3588	will do	shalt thou have of the LORD	H853	H3068	the thing	H834	H1697	
H6213								
וְאַתָּה	דָּבָר	לְבָ	כָּל	בְּאֵל	שְׁרָ	עַשְׂרִ	אַמְּ	מְעֻלּוֹתִ
that he hath spoken	go forward	shall the shadow					H518	
H1696	H1980	H6738						
וְאַתָּה	דָּבָר	לְבָ	כָּל	בְּאֵל	שְׁרָ	עַשְׂרִ	אַמְּ	מְעֻלּוֹתִ
or go back	ten	degrees					H4609	
H7725	H6235	H4609						

