

2 Kings 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

Analysis

And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 24: Judgment unfolds progressively. 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. As Judah approaches exile, these events fulfill prophetic warnings and demonstrate that God's patience with covenant violation is not infinite.

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

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 24 takes place during the final collapse of Judah and Babylonian exile, early 6th century BCE, 605-586 BCE. The chapter's theme (Beginning of Babylonian Captivity) reflects the historical reality of the final collapse of Judah, destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and exile to Babylon as covenant curses are fully realized. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 24 regarding judgment unfolds progressively?
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

וַיִּשְׁלַח הָ	יְהוָה	בְּ	אֶת	גְּדוּדֵי	כַּשְׁדִּים	וְאֶת
and sent	And the LORD	H0	H853	against him bands	of the Chaldees	H853
H7971	H3068			H1416	H3778	
גְּדוּדֵי	אֲכַ	וְאֵת	גְּדוּדֵי	מֹאָב		
against him bands	of the Syrians	H853	against him bands	of the Moabites		
H1416	H758		H1416	H4124		
וְאֶת	גְּדוּדֵי	בְּנֵי	עַם	וַיִּשְׁלַח		
H853	against him bands	of the children	of Ammon	and sent		
	H1416	H1121	H5983	H7971		
בִּיהוּדָה	לְהַאֲבִידָהּ	כַּדְבָר	יְהוָה	אֶשְׂרָה		
them against Judah	to destroy	it according to the word	And the LORD			
H3063	H6	H1697	H3068			
דָּבָר	בְּ	עַבְדָּיו	הַנְּבִיאִים:			
which he spake	by	his servants	the prophets			
H1696	H3027	H5650	H5030			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 35:11 (Parallel theme): But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians: so we dwell at Jerusalem.

2 Kings 23:27 (References Lord): And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

Jeremiah 32:28 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it:

Jeremiah 25:9 (References Lord): Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Ezekiel 19:8 (Parallel theme): Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him: he was taken in their pit.

2 Kings 6:23 (Parallel theme): And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

2 Kings 20:17 (References Lord): Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.