

2 Kings 25:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.

Analysis

But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 25: Covenant curses fulfilled completely. 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 25 takes place during the final collapse of Judah and Babylonian exile, early 6th century BCE, 605-586 BCE. The chapter's theme (Fall of Jerusalem and Temple Destruction) 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 25 regarding covenant curses fulfilled completely?
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

וּמִדֹּל ת	הָאָרֶץ	הַשָּׂא יר	רַב	טַבָּחַ ים	לְכַרְמֵ ים
of the poor	of the land	left	But the captain	of the guard	to be vinedressers
H1803	H776	H7604	H7227	H2876	H3755
וּלְיִגְבִּים:					
H1461					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 40:7 (Parallel theme): Now when all the captains of the forces which were in the fields, even they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed unto him men, and women, and children, and of the poor of the land, of them that were not carried away captive to Babylon;

2 Kings 24:14 (Parallel theme): And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

Jeremiah 52:16 (Parallel theme): But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left certain of the poor of the land for vinedressers and for husbandmen.

Ezekiel 33:24 (Parallel theme): Son of man, they that inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speak, saying, Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance.

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