

2 Kings 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.

Analysis

And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 25: Covenant curses fulfilled completely. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

בְּלֹא לְהָ ְמִלְּסָטְה הַזְּ אֶבְשֵׁ ְאַכְלָה ְבַּעַרְתָּ ְוַתְּבַקְתָּ עַ
was broken up And the city H3605 H376 of war fled by night H3915

בְּדַרְתָּ ְשַׁעַרְתָּ ְבֵּין ְבַּחֲמִתְתָּ ְאַמְּרָה ְאַשְׁר ְעַל ְגַן
by the way of the gate between two walls H2346 H834 H5921 garden H1588

בְּתַחַת ְלָגָם ְבַּעַרְתָּ ְעַל ְוַיְשַׁדְתָּ ְיָם ְבְּלֹא ְסָבִיבָה ְלֹא
which is by the king's now the Chaldees H5921 And the city round about H1980

בְּעַרְבָּהּ ְדַרְתָּ
by the way toward the plain H1870 H6160

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 33:21 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, in the fifth day of the month, that one that had escaped out of Jerusalem came unto me, saying, The city is smitten.

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