

2 Kings 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

Analysis

But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 3: God's faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

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

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 3 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Moabite Rebellion and God's Deliverance) reflects the historical reality of God's compassionate provision through prophetic miracles while both kingdoms struggled with persistent idolatry. 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 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 3 regarding God's faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness?
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

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוֹשָׁפָט	פֶּה	פָּאֵן	נְבִיא	הָיָה
and said	But Jehoshaphat	H369	H6311	Is there not here a prophet	of the LORD
H559	H3092			H5030	H3068
וְנִדְרַשׁ	ה	אֵת	יְהוָה	מְאוֹת	אֵת
that we may enquire	of the LORD	H853	H3068	answered	by him And one
H1875				H6030	H259
מַעֲבֵד	יְהוָה	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֵלִישׁ	בֶן
servants	of the king	of Israel's	and said	Here is Elisha	the son
H5650	H4428	H3478	H559	H477	H1121
שָׁפָט	אֲשֶׁר	צָק	מִן	עַל	אֶלְיהוּ
of Shaphat	which poured	water	H5921	on the hands	of Elijah
H8202	H3332	H4325		H3027	H452

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:7 (Prophecy): And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

1 Kings 19:21 (Parallel theme): And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

2 Kings 3:3 (References Israel): Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.

Psalms 74:9 (Prophecy): We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.

1 Chronicles 14:10 (References Lord): And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand.

1 Chronicles 14:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

1 Chronicles 10:13 (Kingdom): So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

1 Chronicles 15:13 (References Lord): For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

Amos 3:7 (Prophecy): Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

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