

2 Kings 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

Analysis

And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

לֹא יְלֹא נָלְא לְיָמִים אֵל הַמֶּלֶךְ יְמִינֵי אֶתְרָא

said **And Elisha** H413 **And the king** of Israel H4100 H0 H1980

H559

H477

H4428

H3478

H0

H0

H1980

אֶת בְּנֵי יִצְחָק אֶת בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב אֶת בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב

and to the prophets **of thy father** **and to the prophets** **of thy mother**

H413 H5030 H413 H5030

H1

H517

קָרְבָּן אֶל יְשָׁרָאֵל הַמֶּלֶךְ יְמִינֵי לֹא יְלֹא

said **And the king** **of Israel** **hath called**

H559

H4428

H3478

H7121

לֹא תְּבִיא לְהָרָה הַמֶּלֶךְ יְמִינֵי לְשָׁלְשֶׁת

unto him Nay for the LORD **these three** **And the king** **to deliver**

H3068

H7969

H4428

H428

H5414

אֶת אֹתָם בְּ יַד מִזְמָרָה

H853

them into the hand

H3027

מִזְמָרָה

of Moab

H4124

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:19 (Prophecy): Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

1 Kings 22:6 (Kingdom): Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

2 Kings 3:10 (Kingdom): And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!