

2 Kings 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

Analysis

And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אָמַר	אֵלִישָׁע	חִי	יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת	אֲשֶׁר	עִמִּי דָּתִי
said	And Elisha	liveth	As the LORD	of hosts	H834	whom I stand
H559	H477	H2416	H3068	H6635		H5975
פְּנֵי	כִּי	לֹא	פְּנֵי	יְהוֹשָׁפָט	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה
before	H3588	surely were it not that	before	of Jehoshaphat	the king	of Judah
H6440		H3884	H6440	H3092	H4428	H3063
אֲנִי	נֹשֵׂא	אִם	אֶבֶר יֵט	אֶל יָךְ	וְאִם	אֶרְאֶךָ
H589	I regard	H518	I would not look	H413	H518	toward thee nor see
	H5375		H5027			H7200

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 17:1 (References Lord): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

2 Kings 5:16 (References Lord): But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.