

2 Kings 3:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border.

Analysis

And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 3: God's faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness. 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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְכָל H3605	מֹאָבִים H4124	שָׁמְעוּ H8085	כִּי H3588	עָלוּ H5927	הַמְּלָכִים H4428
And when all the Moabites		heard		were come up	that the kings
לְהִלָּחֵם H3898	בָּם H0	וַיִּצְטָקוּ H6817	מִכָּל H3605	חֵגְרָם H2296	
to fight		against them they gathered		all that were able to put	
חֲגֹרָה H2290	וְעַל־ H4605	וַעֲמָדוֹ H5975	עַל H5921	הַגְּבוּל: H1366	
on armour	and upward	and stood		in the border	