

2 Kings 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

Analysis

And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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	וְ	זֶה	יְהוָה	נִצְרָבוּ	נִצְרָבוּ	הַמֶּלֶךְ יְמִינֵיכֶם
And they said	This is blood		H2088	are surely	are surely	the kings
H559	H1818			H2717	H2717	H4428
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וְעַפְתָּה	וְעַפְתָּה	אֶת	אֶת	רְעֵה	לְשֵׁלֶל	לְשֵׁלֶל
and they have smitten	one	H853	another	H6258	to the spoil	
H5221	H376		H7453		H7998	
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מוֹאָב:						
now therefore Moab						
H4124						