

2 Kings 3:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kir-haraseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it.

Analysis

And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kir-haraseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

וְהָעָרִים יִהְיוּ the cities H5892	וַיִּבְּרוּ And they beat down H2040	וְכָל חֵלְקָהּ H3605 piece H2513	טוֹב all the good H2896	יִשְׁלֹךְ of land cast H7993	
אִישׁ every man H376	אֲבָן יָהּ his stone H68	וּמָלֵא וְהָ and filled H4390	וְכָל מַעְיָן H3605 all the wells H4599	מֵי יָם of water H4325	וַיִּסְתּוּ it and they stopped H5640
וְכָל עֵץ H3605 trees H6086	טוֹב all the good H2896	וַיִּפְּלוּ and felled H5307	עַד H5704 left H7604	אֲבָן יָהּ his stone H68	בִּקְרַח יָרַח H0
חֶרֶץ שֵׁת only in Kirharaseth H7025	וַיֵּס בּוֹ went about H5437	הַקֶּלַע יָם thereof howbeit the slingers H7051	וַיִּכּוּ it and smote H5221		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 16:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall Moab howl for Moab, every one shall howl: for the foundations of Kir-hareseth shall ye mourn; surely they are stricken.

Jeremiah 48:36 (Parallel theme): Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kir-heres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished.

Jeremiah 48:31 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; mine heart shall mourn for the men of Kir-heres.

2 Kings 3:19 (Good): And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.

Isaiah 16:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kir-harash.