

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

וְשָׁלַׁ יְכוֹ	ט	וּבְ	מְלֹקַה	וְכָל	בְּנֵר	סָוִי	וְהַעֲרֵ יָם
the cities	And they beat down	H3605	piece	all the good	of land cast		
H5892	H2040		H2513	H2896	H7993		
אִישׁ	וְכָל	מְלֹא	וּבְ	אֶבֶן	יָפָה	מַעֲיָן	מִן
every man	his stone	and filled	H3605	all the wells	of water	it and they stopped	
H376	H68	H4390		H4599	H4325	H5640	
וְכָל	עֵץ	וְכָל	ט	וּבְ	עַד	הַשָּׁא	ירָא
H3605	trees	all the good	H2896	and felled	H5704	left	his stone
H6086			H5307		H7604		H68
וְכָל	שְׁתִּים	וְכָל	וְיָסַר	וְיָסַר	וְכָל	וְכָל	וְכָל
only in Kirharaseth	went about	thereof howbeit the slingers	it and smote				
H7025	H5437	H7051	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-haresh.