

2 Kings 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not.

Analysis

And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

וַיֵּרָא	מֶלֶךְ לֵדָוִד	מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב	כִּי	חַיֵּי קִי	מִמֶּנּוּ	הַמִּלְחָמָה הַזֹּאת
saw	And when the king	of Moab	H3588	was too sore	H4480	that the battle
H7200	H4428	H4124		H2388		H4421
וַיִּקַּח	אֹתוֹ	שִׁבְעָה	מֵאָה	אֲנָשִׁים	שֶׁלֹּף	חֶרֶב
for him he took	H854	with him seven	hundred	men	that drew	swords
H3947		H7651	H3967	H376	H8025	H2719
לְהַבִּיק יַעֲ	אֶל	מֶלֶךְ	אֶדְוִם	וְלֹא	יָכְלוּ:	
to break through	H413	And when the king	of Edom	H3808	but they could	
H1234		H4428	H123		H3201	