

2 Kings 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

Analysis

But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַיָּהִי י'	כָּמֹת	אָחָז ב	וַיִּפְּשׁ ע	בְּמֶלֶךְ
H1961	was dead	But it came to pass when Ahab	rebelled	against the king
	H4194	H256	H6586	H4428
מֹאָב ב	בְּמֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:		
of Moab	against the king	of Israel		
H4124	H4428	H3478		

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 1:1 (References Israel): Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.