

2 Kings 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

Analysis

So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה
H1980	So the king	H3478	So the king	H3063	So the king
H4428	of Israel	H4428	of Judah	H3117	of Edom
וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה
H5437	and they fetched a compass	H1870	journey	H7651	of seven
					days
					H3808
					H1961
וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה	וְאֵלֶּה
H4325	and there was no water	H4264	for the host	H929	and for the cattle
					H834
					H7272

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:47 (Kingdom): There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org