

2 Kings 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Analysis

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 6: God's protection and provision for His servants. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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 6 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Miracles and Siege) 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

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 6 regarding god's protection and provision for his servants?
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

וַתִּפֹּל ל	אֶלְיָשָׁע:	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	וַפֶּקַח	נָא	אֶת
prayed	And Elisha	and said	And the LORD	I pray thee open	H4994	H853
H6419	H477	H559	H3068	H6491		
עֵינָיו	וַיֵּרָא	וַפֶּקַח	יְהוָה	אֶת	עֵינָיו	
his eyes	and he saw	I pray thee open	And the LORD	H853	his eyes	
H5869	H7200	H6491	H3068		H5869	
הַנַּעַר	וַיֵּרָא	וַהֲרִי ה	הַהָר	מְלֵא		
of the young man	and he saw	H2009	and behold the mountain	was full		
H5288	H7200		H2022	H4390		
סוּסֵי	וְרֶכֶב	אֵשׁ	סְבִיבֹת	אֶלְיָשָׁע:		
of horses	and chariots	of fire	round about	And Elisha		
H5483	H7393	H784	H5439	H477		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 68:17 (References Lord): The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

Psalms 34:7 (References Lord): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

2 Kings 2:11 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Hebrews 1:14 (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Acts 26:18 (Parallel theme): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Matthew 26:53 (Prayer): Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Psalms 119:18 (Parallel theme): Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Revelation 19:14 (Parallel theme): And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Psalms 91:11 (Parallel theme): For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

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