

2 Kings 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Analysis

And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of 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

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 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

וַיָּבֹא	וַיַּתְפִּל לְאַלְיָהוּ	וַיַּתְפִּל לְאַלְיָהוּ	וַיַּתְפִּל לְאַלְיָהוּ	וַיַּתְפִּל לְאַלְיָהוּ
And when they came down	prayed	of Elisha	unto the LORD	unto the LORD
H3381	H413	H477	H413	H3068
וְאָמַרְתָּ	אֶת־נָאָמָר	הַגּוֹיִם	בְּנֵי	וְאָמַרְתָּ
and said	And he smote	this people		
H559	H4994	H853	H1471	H2088
בְּשִׁמְךָ יְמִינְךָ	וְאֶת־	בְּשִׁמְךָ יְמִינְךָ	בְּשִׁמְךָ יְמִינְךָ	בְּשִׁמְךָ יְמִינְךָ
I pray thee with blindness	And he smote	I pray thee with blindness		
H5575	H5221	H5575		
כְּדַבֵּר	אַלְיָהוּ			
according to the word	of Elisha			
H1697	H477			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:11 (References Lord): And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

John 12:40 (Parallel theme): He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Genesis 19:11 (Parallel theme): And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

John 9:39 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

