

2 Kings 6:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

Analysis

And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 6: God's protection and provision for His servants. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

ל	א	לֹא	וְ	אָמַר	רְאֵשָׁת	הַאֲשֶׁר
And he answered		H3808	Thou shalt not smite		H834	
	H559		H5221			
שָׁבֵב	יְתַ		בְּמַרְבּוֹבָה		אֶת	הַ
those whom thou hast taken captive		H7617	with thy sword		and with thy bow	H859
			H2719		H7198	
מִקְּהָ			לְ	צְמַח	לִפְנֵי	מִ
Thou shalt not smite	set	H7760	bread	H3899	and water	H4325
H5221						H6440
וְיִאֱכַלּוּ	וְיִשְׁתַּ	וְיִלְכְּדּוּ	אֶל		אֶל-	אֲדֹנֵיכֶם:
them that they may eat	and drink	H8354	H1980	H413	to their master	H113
H398						

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 48:22 (Word): Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

Hosea 2:18 (Word): And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.