

2 Kings 6:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

Analysis

But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

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

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 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

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| שָׁלַח | אֶת | וְיֹשַׁב | יָם | בְּבֵית | וְבְּזִקְנֵי | יָם | וְאֶלְיוֹשָׁע |
| But Elisha | sat | in his house | and the elders | sat | | | hath sent |
| H477 | H3427 | H1004 | H2205 | H3427 | H854 | | H7971 |
| אַל | וְ | פְּמַלְאָה | הַ | אַל | וְ | אַל | וְ |
| a man | from before | came | him but ere the messenger | | | | |
| H376 | H6440 | H2962 | H935 | | H4397 | H413 | |
| וְאַתָּה | אַתָּה | אַתָּה | אַתָּה | אַתָּה | אַתָּה | אַתָּה | אַתָּה |
| וְאַתָּה | אַתָּה | בְּזִקְנֵי | יָם | רִא | וְ | שָׁלַח | |
| H1931 | to him he said | H413 | and the elders | See | H3588 | hath sent | |
| | | H559 | H2205 | H7200 | | H7971 | |
| בְּנֵי | פְּמַרְאֵת | בְּזִהָה | לְקַسְּ יָרֵךְ | אַתָּה | אַתָּה | רְאֵשׁ | אַתָּה |
| ye how this son | of a murderer | H2088 | to take away | H853 | mine head | See | |
| H1121 | H7523 | | H5493 | H7218 | H7200 | | |
| אַתָּה | וְ | וְ | בְּ | וְ | וְ | וְ | וְ |
| אַתָּה | אַתָּה | פְּמַלְאָה | בְּ | בְּ | לְ | רְאֵשׁ | אַתָּה |
| came | him but ere the messenger | H4397 | shut | at the door | hold him fast | mine head | |
| H935 | | | H5462 | H1817 | H3905 | H7200 | H853 |
| בְּ | בְּ | בְּ | בְּ | בְּ | בְּ | בְּ | בְּ |
| אַחֲרֵי | אַדְנֵי | כָּל | כָּל | כָּל | כָּל | אַחֲרֵי | אַחֲרֵי |
| at the door | H3808 | is not the sound | H6963 | feet | H7272 | of his master's | behind |
| H1817 | | | | | | H113 | H310 |

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 14:1 (Parallel theme): Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 8:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.

1 Kings 18:4 (Parallel theme): For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 21:10 (Kingdom): And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

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