

2 Kings 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.

Analysis

And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 7: God's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged. 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 7 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Deliverance from Famine) 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 7 regarding god's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged?
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

עָבֹדָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֶת־יְהוָה
arose And the king in the night and said unto his servants

H6965 H4428 H3915 H559 H413 H5650

לְכָמֶת אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה לְכָמֶת אֲשֶׁר
I will now shew have done

H5046 H4994 H0 H853 H834 H6213

אֲכָמֵד יְדֻעָה רַעַבְתִּים אֲכָמֵד
you what the Syrians to us They know that we be hungry

H758 H3045 H3588 H7457 H587

בָּהָשָׂדֶה לְקַפֵּבַּה מִן יִצְאָה
When they come out of the camp to hide themselves in the field

H3318 H4480 H4264 H2247 H7704

מִיִּם וַיַּתְפִּשְׁ מִן יְרֵא וַיַּצֵּא אֶל־
and said When they come out into the city we shall catch them alive

H3588 H4480 H3318 H5892 H8610 H2416

וְאֶל־יְרֵא: וְאֶל־יְרֵא
into the city and get

H413 H5892 H935

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