

2 Kings 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

Analysis

And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 7: God's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------|---------------|
| וְהָמֶלֶךְ | הִפְקִי יָד | אֶת | הַשָּׁלִי יֵשׁ | אֲשֶׁר | נִשְׁעָן | עַל | יָדוֹ |
| And the king | appointed | H853 | the lord | H834 | he leaned | H5921 | on whose hand |
| H4428 | H6485 | | H7991 | | H8172 | | H3027 |
| עַל | בֶּן עַר | וְדָמָס הוּא | הָעָם | | | | |
| H5921 | to have the charge of the gate | trode | and the people | | | | |
| | H8179 | H7429 | H5971 | | | | |
| בֶּן עַר | וַיָּמָת | כָּאִשׁוֹ ר | דָּבָר ר | אִישׁ | | | |
| to have the charge of the gate | and he died | H834 | had said | as the man | | | |
| H8179 | H4191 | | H1696 | H376 | | | |
| יָם | אֲשֶׁר ר | דָּבָר ר | בֶּן דָּת | הָמֶלֶךְ | אֵלָיו: | | |
| of God | H834 | had said | came down | And the king | H413 | | |
| H430 | | H1696 | H3381 | H4428 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 6:32 (Kingdom): 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?

2 Kings 7:2 (Kingdom): Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.