

2 Kings 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

Analysis

For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וְאֵדָן	אֶת	הַשְׁמָה	יָעַן	מִתְּנַחַת	הַשְׁמָה	אֶת	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא
For the Lord	to hear	H853	had made the host	of the Syrians	of a noise			
H136	H8085		H4264	H758	H6963			
אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן
of chariots	a noise	H5483	a noise	host	of a great	and they said	one	
H7393	H6963		H6963	H2428	H1419	H559	H376	
אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן	וְלֹא	אֶבֶן
אֶל	אֶחָד	אֶחָד	שָׁכָר	עָלֵינוּ	מֶלֶךְ	אֶת	וְשָׁבָא	אֶל
H413	to another	H2009	hath hired	H5921	Lo the king	of Israel	H853	
H251			H7936		H4428	H3478		
עָלֵינוּ	לְבָב	וְאֶ	מֶצֶב	יְמִם	מֶלֶךְ	אֶת	עָלֵינוּ	לְבָב
Lo the king	of the Hittites	H853	Lo the king	of the Egyptians	to come	H5921		
H4428	H2850		H4428	H4714	H935			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 5:24 (References Lord): And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

Isaiah 31:1 (References Lord): Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

1 Kings 10:29 (Kingdom): And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means.

Revelation 9:9 (Parallel theme): And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

Isaiah 36:9 (References Egypt): How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

Psalms 14:5 (Parallel theme): There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.

Job 15:21 (Parallel theme): A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.

Ezekiel 10:5 (Parallel theme): And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.

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