

2 Kings 8:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.

Analysis

And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 8: Prophetic word shapes national events. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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 8 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Elisha's International Influence) 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 8 regarding prophetic word shapes national events?
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

וַיָּשֶׁבֶט דָּ	אֶת	פָּנָיו	וַיִּשָּׂם	עַד	בִּשְׁ
And he settled	H853	his countenance	stedfastly	H5704	until he was ashamed
H5975		H6440	H7760		H954
וַיִּבְכֵּהוּ	אֶת	הָאֱלֹהִים:			
wept	and the man	of God			
H1058	H376	H430			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 19:41 (Parallel theme): And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Psalms 119:136 (Parallel theme): Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Jeremiah 9:18 (Parallel theme): And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters.

Jeremiah 4:19 (Parallel theme): My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

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