

2 Kings 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

Analysis

And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

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 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 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וַיַּלֶּךְ H1980	בְּדֶרֶךְ H1870	מַלְכֵי י H4428	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	כָּאֵשׁ ר H834	וַיַּעַשׂ H6213	בֵּית H1004
of Ahab H256	in the way H1870	of the kings H4428	of Israel H3478	and he did H6213	the house H1004	
אֶחָד ב H256	כִּי H3588	בֵּית H1323	אֶחָד ב H256	הָיְתָה H1961	לֹא H0	לְאִשָּׁה H802
of Ahab H256	for the daughter H1323	of Ahab H256	was his wife H802			
וַיַּעַשׂ H6213	הָרַע H7451	בְּעֵינֵי י H5869	יְהוָה: H3068			
and he did H6213	evil H7451	in the sight H5869	of the LORD H3068			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 8:26 (Kingdom): Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

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