

2 Kings 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children.

Analysis

Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

לֹمַעַן יְהוָה אֶת לְבָשָׁחַ יְהֹוָה אֶת יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה
H3808 would H14 Yet the LORD H3068 not destroy H7843 H853 Judah H3063 H4616 for David H1732

לְבָנָיו לְבָנָיו לְבָנָיו
his servant's sake as he promised H834 H559 H0 him to give H5414 H0 a light H5216

לְבָנָיו
and to his children H3605 him alway H1121 H3117

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:36 (Light): And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

Isaiah 37:35 (References David): For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

Hosea 11:9 (Parallel theme): I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

2 Samuel 7:15 (Parallel theme): But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

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