

2 Kings 8:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.

Analysis

In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 8: Prophetic word shapes national 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

בְּיָמָיו	פָּשַׁע	אֶדוֹם	מִתַּחַת	יָד	יְהוּדָה
In his days	revolted	Edom	H8478	from under the hand	of Judah
H3117	H6586	H123		H3027	H3063
וַיַּמְלֵךְ	עָלֶיהָ	מֶלֶךְ			
and made	H5921	a king			
H4427		H4428			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:47 (Kingdom): There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king.

2 Kings 3:9 (Kingdom): So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

2 Kings 3:27 (Kingdom): Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great

indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

2 Kings 8:22 (Parallel theme): Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.

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