

2 Kings 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וְשָׁנָה הָיָה מֶלֶךְ אֶחָזְיָהוּ וְשָׁנָה יָמִים עָשָׂר יָמִים בָּנֵי

old and twenty Two year was Ahaziah and he reigned year

H1121 H6242 H8147 H8141 H274 H4427 H8141

עַתְלִי הָיָה מֶלֶךְ בֵּירֶשֶׁת מֶלֶךְ אֶתְתָּם אֶתְתָּם

one and he reigned in Jerusalem name And his mother's was Athaliah

H259 H4427 H3389 H8034 H517 H6271

וְשְׁבָאָל: מֶלֶךְ עַמּוֹד בַּת

the daughter of Omri king of Israel

H1323 H6018 H4428 H3478

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 22:2 (Kingdom): Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.

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