

2 Kings 8:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Ben-hadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

Analysis

So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Ben-hadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

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 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

וַיֵּלֶךְ	כִּזְאֵל	לִקְרָאתוֹ	וְגַם	מִנֶּחֱ	בְיָדוֹ	וְכָל
H1980	So Hazael	to meet	him and took	a present	with him	H3605
	H2371	H7125	H3947	H4503	H3027	
טוֹב	וְכָל	דָּמָה שֶׁל	מִשָּׁא	אַרְבַּע יָמִים	גָּמַל	וַיָּבֹא
even of every good thing	of Damascus	burden	forty	camels	and came	
H2898	H1834	H4853	H705	H1581	H935	
וַעֲמָד	לִפְנֵי	יָאמַר	בְּנִי	הַדָּד	מֶלֶךְ	אֲרָם
and stood	before	him and said	Thy son	H0	Benhadad	king
H5975	H6440	H559	H1121		H1130	H4428
						H758
שָׁלַח נִי	אֵלָיו	יָאמַר	הֲאֶחְיֶה	מִחֲלֵי	זֶה:	
hath sent	H413	him and said	Shall I recover	of this disease	H2088	
H7971		H559	H2421	H2483		

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