

2 Kings 9:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again.

Analysis

So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 9: Divine judgment executed on Ahab's house. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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 9 takes place during Jehu's dynasty and the violent purge of Baal worship, around 841 BCE. The chapter's theme (Jehu's Violent Revolution) reflects the historical reality of violent political revolution motivated by

zeal for Yahweh but lacking genuine heart transformation. 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

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 9 regarding divine judgment executed on ahab's house?
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

לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	
H1980	one on horseback	H5483	to meet	H7125	Thus saith	H3541	Thus saith	H559	H0	Is it peace	turn	H559	Is it peace	turn	
לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	לֹא	מְרַאַת	רַכְבָּה	
the king	Is it peace	Thus saith	And Jehu	H4100	H0	Is it peace	turn	H7965	H5437	H7965	H5437	H7965	H5437	H7965	H5437
אַל	אָמַר	אָמַר	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד	
H413	thee behind	told	me And the watchman	H6822	Thus saith	H559	came	H935	H4397	H4397	H4397	H4397	H4397	H4397	H4397
עַד	הַמִּלְאָךְ	יְהוּ	אֵלָי	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	שָׁבָן	
H5704	H1992	H3808	to them but he cometh not again	H7725											

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:19 (Kingdom): Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu answered, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me.

2 Kings 9:22 (Peace): And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?