

2 Kings 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

Analysis

And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 20: God's mercy and human presumption. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 20 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery) reflects the historical reality of genuine religious reform under Hezekiah, including trust in God that resulted in miraculous deliverance from Assyria. 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 20 regarding god's mercy and human presumption?
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

וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיִּשְׁעֵהוּ הוּא	וַיִּקְחוּ ו	דָּבָל לַת	תְּאֵנִי יָם	וַיִּקְחוּ ו
said	And Isaiah	And they took	a lump	of figs	And they took
H559	H3470	H3947	H1690	H8384	H3947
וַיִּשֶׁן יָמוֹ	עַל	הַשֶּׁחַיִן	וַיִּחַי:		
and laid	H5921	it on the boil	and he recovered		
H7760		H7822	H2421		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 38:21 (Parallel theme): For Isaiah had said, Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaister upon the boil, and he shall recover.