

2 Kings 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

Analysis

And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 4: God's compassionate power through His prophet. 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 4 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Elisha's Miracles of Provision and Life) 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 4 regarding god's compassionate power through his prophet?
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	אֶל	גִּיחֲזִי י	נָעַר ו	וַיִּקְרָא	לְשׁוֹנָמִית ית
And he said	H413	to Gehazi	his servant	And when he had called	this Shunammite
H559		H1522	H5288	H7121	H7767
הִזָּאת	וַיִּקְרָא	לָהּ	וַתַּעֲמֵד	לִפְנֵיוֹ:	
H2063	And when he had called	H0	her she stood	before	
	H7121		H5975	H6440	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:43 (Parallel theme): And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

Acts 13:5 (Parallel theme): And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

1 Kings 19:3 (Parallel theme): And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

2 Kings 3:11 (Parallel theme): But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.