

2 Kings 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

Analysis

And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 4: God's compassionate power through His prophet. 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 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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 ל' וַיֹּאמֶר נָא אֵלַי הִנֵּה

And he said

H0

And he said

H4994

H413

H2009

H559

H559

כָּל אֶת אֵלַינוּ

now unto her Behold thou hast been careful

H413

H854

H3605

H2729

לְךָ לַעֲשֵׂה וְתָ

for us with all this care

הַזֹּאת

H2063

מָה הָ

H4100

לְעֵשׂוֹת

what is to be done

לְךָ

H0

H2731

H6213

הִי שֶׁ

for thee wouldst

H3426

לִדְבֹר

thou be spoken

H1696

לְךָ

H0

אֶל

H413

לְךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ

for to the king

H4428

אֶל

H176

אֶל

H413

שֶׁ

or to the captain

H8269

הַצֶּבֶא

of the host

H6635

וַיֹּאמֶר

And he said

H559

בֵּת וְ

among

H8432

עַמִּי

mine own people

H5971

אֲנִי

H595

יִשְׁכֵּנִי:

I dwell

H3427

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:10 (Parallel theme): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Romans 16:6 (Parallel theme): Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

Psalms 37:3 (Parallel theme): Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Romans 16:2 (Parallel theme): That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

2 Samuel 19:13 (Parallel theme): And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

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