

2 Kings 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

Analysis

And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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	וְהָ	לַעֲשׂוֹת	לָהּ	וַיֹּאמֶר	גִּיחִזִּי י
And he said	H4100	What then is to be done	H0	And he said	for her And Gehazi
H559		H6213		H559	H1522
אֲבָ ל	יְבִי	אֵין	לָהּ	וְאִישׁ הָ	זָקֵן׃
Verily	she hath no child	H369	H0	and her husband	is old
H61	H1121			H376	H2204

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:7 (Parallel theme): And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

1 Samuel 1:8 (Parallel theme): Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

Genesis 25:21 (Parallel theme): And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Judges 13:2 (Parallel theme): And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not.

Genesis 17:17 (Parallel theme): Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Genesis 30:1 (Parallel theme): And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

1 Samuel 1:2 (Parallel theme): And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.