

2 Kings 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

Analysis

And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

רָאָשׁ הָנָתְּנָהּ לְמֹעֵד בָּזָה
conceived And the woman and bare a son at that season H2088
H2029 H802 H3205 H1121 H4150

בָּעֵת כְּלִי הַנִּזְעָן אֶלְישָׁעַ
unto her according to the time of life had said that Elisha
H6256 H2416 H834 H1696 H413 H477

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 113:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

Genesis 21:1 (Parallel theme): And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

Luke 1:36 (Parallel theme): And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Hebrews 11:11 (Parallel theme): Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

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