

2 Kings 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

Analysis

And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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	אֵל	אָבִי	רִאשׁוֹ	רִאשׁוֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל	הַנֶּעֱר
And he said	H413	unto his father	My head	My head	And he said	H413	to a lad
H559		H1	H7218	H7218	H559		H5288
וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל	אָמִוֹ:					
Carry	H413	him to his mother					
H5375		H517					

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