

2 Kings 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

Analysis

And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַתֹּאמֶר	אֵל יְהוָה	אֵלִישָׁע	מָה	אֶעֱשֶׂה	לִי
And she said	H413	And Elisha	H4100	unto her What shall I do	H0
H559		H477		H6213	
הֲגִידִי	לְמָה	יֵשׁ	לִי	בֵּיתִי	
for thee tell	H0	me what hast	H0	hath not any thing in the house	
H5046	H4100	H3426		H1004	
וַתֹּאמֶר	אֵין	לְשִׁפְטֹתֶיךָ	כָּל	בֵּיתִי	כִּי
And she said	H369	Thine handmaid	H3605	hath not any thing in the house	H3588
H559		H8198		H1004	
אִם	אֶסֶן	שָׁמֶן:			
H518	save a pot	of oil			
	H610	H8081			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 17:12 (Parallel theme): And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

James 2:5 (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Acts 3:6 (Parallel theme): Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

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