

2 Kings 4:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother,
he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

Analysis

And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וַיִּשָּׂא הוּ	וַיְבִיֵּא הוּ	אֶל	אִמּוֹ	וַיֵּשֶׁב	עַל
And when he had taken	him and brought	H413	him to his mother	he sat	H5921
H5375	H935		H517	H3427	
בְּרַךְ יְהוָה	עַד	הַצֶּהֱרָה יוֹם	וַיָּמָת:		
on her knees	H5704	till noon	and then died		
H1290		H6672	H4191		

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