

2 Kings 4:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

Analysis

And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 4: God's compassionate power through His prophet. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

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

וַיֵּלֶךְ	עַל	וַיִּשְׁכַּב	הָוֶה	מִתְּמַטֵּל	אֲשֶׁר	יָמָן	בְּאֱלֹהִים
And she went up	and laid	H5921	him on the bed	of the man			of God
H5927	H7901		H4296		H376		H430
רַגְלָיו	בַּעַד	וַיִּתְסַלֵּךְ	וַיִּתְצַא				
and shut	H1157	the door upon him and went out					
H5462			H3318				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 4:32 (Parallel theme): And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.