

2 Kings 4:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

Analysis

Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לְגִיזִי י	חָגֵר	מִתְּנֵי יָבֶיךָ	וְקַח	מִשְׁעֶנֶתִּי	בְיָדְךָ
Then he said	to Gehazi	Gird up	thy loins	and take	my staff	in thine hand
H559	H1522	H2296	H4975	H3947	H4938	H3027

וְלֹא	כִּי	תִמְצָא	אִישׁ	לֹא	יִבְרַכְךָ	וְכִי	יִבְרַכְךָ	אִישׁ
H1980	H3588	if thou meet	any man	H3808	salute	H3588	salute	any man
		H4672	H376		H1288		H1288	H376

לֹא	תַעֲנֵנִי וְ	וְשָׁמַתְ	מִשְׁעֶנֶתִּי	עַל	פָּנָי
H3808	thee answer him not again	and lay	my staff	H5921	upon the face
	H6030	H7760	H4938		H6440

הַנָּעַר:
of the child
H5288

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 2:14 (Parallel theme): And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

Exodus 14:16 (Parallel theme): But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

1 Kings 18:46 (Parallel theme): And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Luke 10:4 (Parallel theme): Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

2 Kings 9:1 (Parallel theme): And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead:

Acts 19:12 (Parallel theme): So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Acts 3:16 (Parallel theme): And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Exodus 4:17 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

2 Kings 2:8 (Parallel theme): And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.