

2 Kings 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

Analysis

Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

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

כִּי	מִאֵת	בְּחֵזֶק	לְכִי	לְכִי	שָׁאַלְיִ	לְכִי	לְכִי	כָּלִים	כָּלִים	מִן	מִן	אָמַר
Then he said	H1980	borrow	H0	thee vessels	H4480	abroad	H853					H3605
H559		H7592		H3627		H2351						
אֲלֹ	כָּלִים	כָּלִים	אֲלֹ	כָּלִים	אֲלֹ	כָּלִים	אֲלֹ	פְּנַעֲלִים	פְּנַעֲלִים	בָּרְכֶת	בָּרְכֶת	
of all thy neighbours	H7934	thee vessels	H3627	even empty	H408	borrow not a few	H4591					

Additional Cross-References

John 2:7 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

Psalms 81:10 (Parallel theme): I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

John 16:24 (Parallel theme): Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

