

# 2 Kings 4:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

## Analysis

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**And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.**

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

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**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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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פָנִים	עַל	בַּמְשָׁעָת	נָתָת	אֶת	לְיִשְׁמַם	פָנִים	עַבְרִים	עַבְרִי	וְגַחֵזִים
And Gehazi	passed on	before	them and laid	H853	the staff	H5921	before		
H1522	H5674	H6440	H7760		H4938				H6440

בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן
The child	H369	but there was	neither voice	H369	nor hearing	H7182			
H5288			H6963						

לֹא	לִאמְרָה	לֹא							
לְיִשְׁבַּב	לְקַרְאָתָנוּ	לְיִתְּדַבֵּר							
Wherefore he went again	to meet	him and told	H0	him saying	H3808				
H7725	H7125	H5046		H559					

בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּקָרְבָּן
is not awaked	The child								
H6974	H5288								

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 11:11** (Parallel theme): These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

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