

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

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

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

וְגִחָזִי י	עָבַר	פְּנֵי י	וַיִּשֶׁם	אֶת	הַמַּשְׁעָה נָתַתְּ	עַל	פְּנֵי י
And Gehazi	passed on	before	them and laid	H853	the staff	H5921	before
H1522	H5674	H6440	H7760		H4938		H6440

הַנְּעִיר:	וְאֵין	קוֹל	וְאֵין	קוֹשֵׁב
The child	H369	but there was neither voice	H369	nor hearing
H5288		H6963		H7182

וַיֵּשָׁב	לִקְרָאתוֹ	וַיֹּד	לֵו	לְאֹמֶר ר	ל א
Wherefore he went again	to meet	him and told	H0	him saying	H3808
H7725	H7125	H5046		H559	

הַנְּעִיר:	הֵקֵי יֵץ
The child	is not awaked
H5288	H6974

Additional Cross-References

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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