

2 Kings 4:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

Analysis

And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וַיָּבֹא	וְאֵלֵישָׁע	בְּבֵית יְהוָה	הַנְּזָרֶן	בְּבֵית עַמּוֹד	מֵת
was come	And when Elisha	into the house	H2009	behold the child	was dead
H935	H477	H1004		H5288	H4191
וְלֹא	מִשְׁכַּן	בְּעַל	מִתְּפִלָּה		
and laid	upon his bed	H5921	H4296		
H7901					

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