

2 Kings 4:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

Analysis

And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְקָרָא הָ	אֶל	גִּיחִזִּי י	וַיֹּאמֶר	וְקָרָא הָ	אֶל	הַשֹּׁנְמִי יֵת
And he called	H413	Gehazi	and said	And he called	H413	this Shunammite
H7121		H1522	H559	H7121		H7767
הִזְאת	וְקָרָא הָ	וַתָּבֹא	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶל יוֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׂא י
H2063	And he called	her And when she was come in	H413	and said		Take up
	H7121	H935		H559		H5375
בְּנֶה:						
thy son						
H1121						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:35 (Parallel theme): Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

