

2 Kings 4:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not.

Analysis

And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וָצֵא	אֶחָד	אֶל	שֶׁדִּה	וַיִּלְקֹט	אֶרֶב	וַיִּמְצָא	גֶּפֶן
went out	And one	a wild	and gathered	herbs	and found	vine	
H3318	H259	H413	H7704	H3950	H219	H4672	H1612
וַיִּבֶּה	אֶל	מִלֵּא	שֶׁדִּה	פִּקְעֹת	מִמֶּנּוּ	וַיִּלְקֹט	שֶׁדִּה
a wild	and gathered	gourds	a wild	full	his lap	and came	
H7704	H3950	H4480	H6498	H7704	H4393	H899	H935
וַיִּפְלֵחַ	אֶל	סִיר	הַנֶּזֶק	כִּי	לֵא	יָדְעוּ:	
and shred	them into the pot	of pottage	for they knew				
H6398	H413	H5518	H5138	H3588	H3808	H3045	

