

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

וַיֵּצֵא וַיִּמְצָא אֶרֶת וַיַּלְקֹט שְׂדֵה אֶל אֶחָד וְאֶת אֶחָד
went out And one H413 a wild and gathered herbs and found vine
H3318 H259 H7704 H3950 H219 H4672 H1612

וַיַּבְדֵּל אֶת בְּגָד וְאֶת מַלְאָךְ שְׂדֵה פְּקֻעַת מִמְּנוּ וַיַּלְקֹט
a wild and gathered H4480 gourds a wild full his lap and came
H7704 H3950 H6498 H7704 H4393 H899 H935

וְיִפְלֹל כִּי הַפְּצִיד יְדֵיכֶם לְאַתְּ יְדֵעָה: כִּי יְדֵעָה
and shred H413 them into the pot of pottage H3588 H3808 for they knew
H6398 H5518 H5138 H3045

