

2 Kings 4:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came a man from Baal-shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat.

Analysis

And there came a man from Baal-shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 4: God's compassionate power through His prophet. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

לֹא וְשָׁלַשׁ יָבָא מִבְּעֵל שָׁלַשׁ לֹא וְשָׁלַשׁ
a man And there came from Baalshalisha And there came a man
H376 H935 H1190 H935 H376

לְחִמְשָׁה עֲשָׂר יָמִים לְחִמְשָׁה שָׁעָרִים בְּכָרִים
of God bread of the firstfruits twenty bread of barley
H430 H3899 H1061 H6242 H3899 H8184

לְכָלְלָגָן וְיִכְרַת לְכָלְלָגָן וְיִכְרַת
and full ears of corn in the husk thereof And he said Give unto the people
H3759 H6861 H559 H5414 H5971

וַיִּאֱכַלְוּ
that they may eat
H398

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 9:7 (References God): Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?

John 6:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

John 6:9 (Parallel theme): There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

2 Kings 7:1 (Parallel theme): Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

1 Samuel 9:4 (Parallel theme): And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed

through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.

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