

2 Kings 4:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof.

Analysis

And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| אָמַר | לְפָנָי | מֵאָה |
| He said again | And his servitor | this before |
| H559 | H8334 | H2088 |
| | | an hundred |
| | | H3967 |
| אָמַר | כִּי | אָמַר |
| men | He said again | Give |
| H376 | H559 | H5414 |
| | | the people |
| | | H5971 |
| | | They shall eat |
| | | H398 |
| | | H3588 |
| | | H3541 |
| | | He said again |
| | | H559 |
| הוּא | אֲכָל | אָמַר |
| the LORD | They shall eat | and shall leave |
| H3068 | H398 | H3498 |

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:13 (Parallel theme): But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

Matthew 14:20 (Parallel theme): And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

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?

Mark 8:20 (Parallel theme): And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven.

Matthew 15:37 (Parallel theme): And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

Luke 9:17 (Parallel theme): And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.