

2 Kings 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אָל	וְ	אָמַר	אָל	וְ	אָמַר
כַּמְלָא	אֶת	תְּוָהָר	כַּלְיָה	כַּלְיָה	כַּלְיָה
H1961	were full	And it came to pass when the vessels	H3627	And he said	H413
H4390			H3627		H559
בְּנָה	וְיִשְׁחָה	אֶל	וְיִדְעָה	כַּלְיָה	כַּלְיָה
unto her son	Bring	H413	H5750	And it came to pass when the vessels	H3627
H1121	H5066				
עַד	יְהִי	אֵל	יְהִי	כַּלְיָה	תִּשְׁמַת
And he said	H413	H369	H5750	And it came to pass when the vessels	stayed
H559				H3627	H5975
בְּשָׂמָן:					
more And the oil					
H8081					

Additional Cross-References

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.

2 Kings 13:19 (Parallel theme): And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

Luke 6:19 (Parallel theme): And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.