

2 Kings 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

Analysis

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַתָּבֹא אֵלָיו	וַתֹּאמֶר	לְאִישׁ	הָאֱלֹהִים	וַיֹּאמֶר	לָכִי	מִכֶּרְיִי
Then she came	and told	the man	of God	And he said	H1980	sell
H935	H5046	H376	H430	H559		H4376
אֶת	הַשֶּׁמֶן	וַתִּשְׁלַם	אֶת	נִשְׁיָהּ	וְאֶת	בְּנֵיהֶּיהָ
H853	the oil	and pay	H853	thy debt	H859	thou and thy children
	H8081	H7999		H5386		H1121
						וַתֵּחִי
						and live
						H2421
בְּנוֹתָיו:						
of the rest						
H3498						