

2 Kings 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

Analysis

Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 5: God's grace extends to Gentiles; judgment on greed. 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 5 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Naaman's Healing and Gehazi's Greed) 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 5 regarding god's grace extends to gentiles; judgment on greed?
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

מִכָּל	וְדָם שֶׁקֶן	נָהָר וְתֵּי	וּפְרָפָר	אֲבָנָה	טוֹב	הֵלֵךְ
H3605	of Damascus H1834	rivers H5104	and Pharpar H6554	Are not Abana H71	better H2896	H3808
בָּהֶם	אֲרֵם יֵץ	הֵלֵךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִיָּם		
H0	may I not wash H7364	H3808	of Israel H3478	than all the waters H4325		
בְּחֵמָה:	וַיִּלָּךְ	וַיִּפֹּן	וְטָהַר			
in a rage H2534	H1980	So he turned H6437	in them and be clean H2891			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

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