

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

מְכֹלָה	דָּמָעָה שָׁקָעָה	נִבְּרָה וֹתָה	וּפְרָפָרָה	טוֹבָה אָבָנָה הָ
H3605	H1834	H5104	H6554	H71
better	of Damascus	rivers	and Pharpar	Are not Abana
H3808	H1834	H5104	H6554	H71
מִימִתִּי	בְּלֹא יִשְׁרְאָלָה	אַרְםָ זָהָבָה	בְּבָמָה	לְ
than all the waters	of Israel	may I not wash		
H4325	H3478	H7364		H0
וְתַּבְּרִיאָהָי	וְתַּבְּרִיאָהָי	בְּחִמָּהָה		
in them and be clean	So he turned	in a rage		
H2891	H6437	H2534		

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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