

2 Kings 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

Analysis

And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 5: God's grace extends to Gentiles; judgment on greed. 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 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

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 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

יִאָמַר	תְּצַדֵּן	אֵל	יְהִי	אֵל	אֵל אֵל
said	And Naaman	H3808	Shall there not then I pray thee be given		H4994
H559	H5283			H5414	
for thy servant	burden	two	mules	of earth	לוֹא
H5650	H4853	H6776	H6505	H127	כִּי אֶתְּדֻמַּת הַ
will henceforth offer		H5750	for thy servant	neither burnt offering	בְּכָה
H6213			H5650	H5930	עַל הַ
gods	unto other	H3588	אֲמִתְּכִי		יְעַשֵּׂה
H430	H312	H518	לְאֶלְהָה יְמִ		וְעַד
			לְיְהִיָּה:		
			but unto the LORD		
			H3068		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:18 (References God): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org