

2 Kings 5:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

Analysis

In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

בְּבַּיּוֹם	הַזֶּה	יְסַלַּח	יְהוָה	לַעֲבָדְךָ	בָּב וְאֵל
In this thing	H2088	pardon	the LORD	thy servant	goeth
H1697		H5545	H3068	H5650	H935
אֲדֹנָי	בֵּית	רִמְמוֹן	בְּהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי	שָׁמָּה	
that when my master	into the house	of Rimmon	and I bow		H8033
H113	H1004	H7417	H7812		
וְהָיָא	נִשְׁעָן	עַל	יָדִי	בְּהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי	בֵּית
H1931	there and he leaneth	H5921	on my hand	and I bow	into the house
	H8172		H3027	H7812	H1004
רִמְמוֹן	בְּהִשְׁתַּחֲוִי	בֵּית	רִמְמוֹן	יְסַלַּח	נָא
of Rimmon	and I bow	into the house	of Rimmon	pardon	H4994
H7417	H7812	H1004	H7417	H5545	the LORD
					H3068
לַעֲבָדְךָ	בְּבַּיּוֹם	הַזֶּה:			
thy servant	In this thing	H2088			
H5650	H1697				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 7:2 (References Lord): Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

2 Kings 7:17 (References Lord): And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

2 Kings 17:35 (References Lord): With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:

Jeremiah 50:20 (References Lord): In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Exodus 20:5 (References Lord): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

1 Kings 19:18 (Parallel theme): Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

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