

2 Kings 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

Analysis

And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וַאֲרָם	יָצָא ו	גְּדוּדֵי יָם	וַיֵּשֶׁב ו		
And the Syrians	had gone out	by companies	and had brought away captive		
H758	H3318	H1416	H7617		
מֵאֶרֶץ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	נַעֲרָה	קֹטַנָּה	וַתֵּחַיֵּן	לִפְנֵי
out of the land	of Israel	maid	a little	H1961	and she waited on
H776	H3478	H5291	H6996		H6440
נַעֲמָן: אִשְׁתּוֹ					
wife	Naaman's				
H802	H5283				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 6:23 (References Israel): And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

2 Kings 13:20 (Parallel theme): And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.

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