

# 2 Kings 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

## Analysis

**And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.**

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 reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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

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**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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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כִּי־רָאָה יְהוָה	מֶלֶךְ	בְּשָׁרָא לְ
H1961 had read	H4428 And it came to pass when the king	H853 of Israel
H7121		H3478
בְּגַד יְהוָה עַל־יַעֲקֹב	פָּאֵלָה יְהוָה וְאָמַר	לְכַתֵּת אֲנָשִׁים
H7167 that he rent	H899 his clothes	H589 and said
		H430 Am I God
		H589 to kill
		H4191
וְלִבְתְּחִי וְתַּחֲרִיב	שְׁלַמְתִּי אֶלְךָ	לְאָסָר וְ
and to make alive	H3588 that this man	H413 unto me to recover
H2421	H2088	H622
מִצְרָעָת וְאֶלְעָשָׂה	דָּעַן אֶת־כֵּן	וְרָא אֶת־
a man of his leprosy	H3588 wherefore	H4994 consider
H376	H6883	H3045
	H389	H4994
		I pray you and see
		H3588
		H7200
מַתְאַבֵּה הָנָא	לִי	כִּי
how he seeketh a quarrel	H1931	H0
H579		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 2:6** (Parallel theme): The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

**Genesis 30:2** (References God): And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

**1 Kings 20:7** (Kingdom): Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.

**Deuteronomy 32:39** (References God): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

**Luke 11:54** (Kingdom): Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

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