

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

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 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

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

וַיֵּה י	בְּקִרְא	מֶלֶךְ	הַסֵּפֶר	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	ל
H1961	had read	And it came to pass when the king	of Israel	H853	the letter	
	H7121	H4428	H3478		H5612	
וְקָבַע	בְּגָדָיו	וַיֹּאמֶר	הֲאֵלֹהִים	אֲנִי	לְהַמִּית	יְת
that he rent	his clothes	and said	Am I God	H589	to kill	
H7167	H899	H559	H430		H4191	
וְלַחְיֵי	כִּי	זֶה	שֵׁלִי	אֵלַי	לְאַסֹּף	רַ
and to make alive	H3588	that this man	doth send	H413	unto me to recover	
H2421		H2088	H7971		H622	
אִישׁ	מִצָּרְעָתוֹ	כִּי	אֲנִי	דָּעוּ	נָא	וּרְאוּ
a man	of his leprosy	H3588	wherefore	consider	H4994	I pray you and see
H376	H6883		H389	H3045		H7200
מִתְאַנֶּה	לִי:	הוּא				
how he seeketh a quarrel	H1931	H0				
H579						

Additional Cross-References

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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