

2 Kings 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

Analysis

And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

כִּי הָאֵלֹהִים יִם	אִישׁ	אֵלִישָׁע ע	כָּשָׁמ עַן וַיְהִי י	
H3588	H376	H477	H1961	
of God	the man	And it was so when Elisha	had heard	
H430			H8085	
וַיִּשְׁלַח	בְּגָד יָב	אֶת בִּישָׁרְאֵל:	הִמָּ לָךְ	קָב עָתָּה
H7971	H899	H853	H3478	H7167
that he sent	his clothes	in Israel	that the king	Wherefore hast thou rent
בְּגָד יָב	קָב עָתָּה	לָמָּה לֹא מָר	הִמָּ לָךְ	אֵל
H899	H7167	H4100	H4428	H413
his clothes	Wherefore hast thou rent	saying	that the king	
יֵשׁ	כִּי	וַיָּדַע	אֵל יָב א	יָבֹא
H3426	H3588	H3045	H4994	H935
that there is	now to me and he shall know		let him come	
בִּישָׁרְאֵל:	נָבִיא			
H3478	H5030			
in Israel	a prophet			