

2 Kings 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians.
So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two
measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the
LORD.

Analysis

And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 7: God's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged. 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 7 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Deliverance from Famine) 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 7 regarding god's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged?
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

וַיֵּצֵא א	וְהָעָם	וַיִּבְזְזוּ	אֶת	מִתְנֵי ה	אֲכָרִים	וְיָהּ י
went out	And the people	and spoiled	H853	the tents	of the Syrians	H1961
H3318	H5971	H962		H4264	H758	
וְסֵאתִי	סֵלֶת	בִּשְׁקָל	וְסֵאתִי	שְׁעֵרִים	בִּשְׁקָל	
So a measure	of fine flour	for a shekel	So a measure	of barley	for a shekel	
H5429	H5560	H8255	H5429	H8184	H8255	
כְּדָבָר	יְהוָה:					
according to the word	of the LORD					
H1697	H3068					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 7:1 (Word): Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

Isaiah 33:4 (Parallel theme): And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpillar: as the running to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them.

Isaiah 33:23 (Parallel theme): Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey.

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