

2 Kings 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria:

Analysis

And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria:

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 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 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיְהִי י	כִּדְבַר	אֵל יֵשׁ	הָאֱלֹהִים יֵם	אֶל	הֶמָּלֶךְ
H1961	had spoken	And it came to pass as the man	of God	H413	to the king
	H1696	H376	H430		H4428
לֵאמֹר	וְסָאָה	שְׂעֵר יֵם	בֶּשֶׂל קֶל	וְסָאָה	סֵלֶת
saying	Two measures	of barley	for a shekel	Two measures	of fine flour
H559	H5429	H8184	H8255	H5429	H5560
בֶּשֶׂל קֶל	יְהִיָּה	כְּעַתָּה	מָחָר	בֶּשֶׂל עַר	שְׁמֶרֶן:
for a shekel	H1961	about this time	shall be to morrow	in the gate	of Samaria
H8255		H6256	H4279	H8179	H8111

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