

2 Kings 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

Analysis

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 7: God's supernatural deliverance and human unbelief judged. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַאֲרִבָּעָה	אֶחָד	מִצָּרַעִים	כִּי יָבוֹאוּ	בְּתוֹךְ	הַשָּׁעַר
And there were four	one	leprous	at the entering in	of the gate	
H702	H376	H1961 H6879	H6607	H8179	
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֶחָד	אֶל	רֵעֵהוּ	אֲנִי חָנוּ	כִּי יֹשְׁבֵי יָם
and they said	one	to another	Why sit		
H559	H376	H413 H7453	H4100 H587	H6311 H3427	H5704
מְתוֹנוּ:					
we here until we die					
H4191					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 7:4 (Parallel theme): If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

Numbers 12:14 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

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