

2 Kings 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אִם H518	אִמְרֵנוּ H559	נָב וְאֵ H935	בְּעִיר H5892	וְהָרָעָה H7458	בְּעִיר H5892
	If we say	We will enter	into the city	then the famine	into the city
וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H4191	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H8033	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H518	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H3427	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H6311	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H4191
and if they kill	and if they kill	and if they kill	and if they sit still	and if they kill	and if they kill
וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H6258	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H1980	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H5307	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H413	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H4264	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H758
and let us fall	and let us fall	and let us fall	unto the host	of the Syrians	
וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H2421	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H2421	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H2421	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H518	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H4191	וְאִם יִקְרָאוּ H4191
if they save us alive	if they save us alive	if they save us alive	and if they kill	and if they kill	and if they kill

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 14:18 (Parallel theme): If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not.

Jeremiah 8:14 (Parallel theme): Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

Jonah 3:9 (Parallel theme): Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

2 Samuel 14:14 (Parallel theme): For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

Esther 4:16 (Parallel theme): Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org