

2 Kings 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

Analysis

Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 8: Prophetic word shapes national events. 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 8 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Elisha's International Influence)

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

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 8 regarding prophetic word shapes national events?
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

וְאֵלֹישָׁע	אָל	דָּבָר	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה
Elisha	Then spake	H413	unto the woman	wheresoever	he had restored to life			
H477	H1696		H802	H834	H2421			
וְאֵלֹישָׁע	אָל	דָּבָר	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה
whose son	saying	Arise	לְאָמֵר	בְּנֵה	אַתָּה	וְבֵית	וְבֵית	וְבֵית
H853	H1121	H559	H6965	H1980	H859	thou and thine household	H1004	
and sojourn	wheresoever	and sojourn	בְּאֵשׁ	רָאשָׁה	קָרְבָּן	וְהַיָּה		
H1481	H834	H1481	רָאשָׁה	H3588	הָתַחַת	לְהַיָּה		
לְרָעָב	וְגַם	בְּאֵל	אָל		אָל	לְשָׁנִים:	שָׁבָע	שָׁבָע
for a famine	H1571	and it shall also come	H413		H776	upon the land	seven	years
H7458		H935			H776	H7651	H8141	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:16 (Parallel theme): Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

Ruth 1:1 (Parallel theme): Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

Haggai 1:11 (Parallel theme): And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

Genesis 12:10 (Parallel theme): And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

2 Kings 4:18 (Parallel theme): And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

Luke 4:25 (Parallel theme): But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

1 Kings 18:2 (Parallel theme): And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.

1 Kings 17:1 (References Lord): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

Leviticus 26:26 (Parallel theme): And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

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