

1 Kings 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

Analysis

And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's apostasy and death, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

Historical Context

First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical

reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How did Solomon's disobedience to God's clear commands lead to his downfall, and what warnings does this provide?
2. What role do relationships and alliances play in either strengthening or compromising our faith?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּקָּם	וְאֱלֹהֵי יָם	לֹא	שָׁטָן	אֶת	רֶזֶן	בֶּן
stirred him up	And God	H0	another adversary	H853	Rezon	the son
H6965	H430		H7854		H7331	H1121
עֲלִיָּדָה	אֲשֶׁר	בָּחָה	מֵאֵת	הַדָּדָעִזֶּר	מֶלֶךְ	צֹבָה
of Eliadah	H834	which fled	H853	Hadadezer	king	of Zobah
H450		H1272		H1909	H4428	H6678
אֲדָנָיו:						
from his lord						
H113						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:14 (Kingdom): And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

2 Samuel 8:3 (Kingdom): David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

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