

1 Kings 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

Analysis

Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of the man of god from judah, within the book's focus on spiritual decline of both kingdoms under various rulers. The prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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. This period (c. 930-850 BCE) saw rapid succession and instability,

especially in the northern kingdom.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of complete obedience to God's word without compromise?
2. What does Elijah's ministry reveal about God's character and His commitment to His covenant people?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

אֵנֶב יְהֹוָה	אָנָּא	אָמֵן	בְּבִית	יָשַׁב	אֵל	וְאֵבֶב
prophet	an	old	Now there dwelt		in Bethel	came
H5030	H259	H2205	H3427	H0	H1008	H935
and his sons	and told		בְּמַעַשׂ הָעָמֵד	כָּל אֶת לְוָיָהִים	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁהָר
H1121	H5608		H0	H853	H3605	H834
that the man	of God	that day	בְּבִית הַיְמָן	אֲתָה אֵל	פְּדָבָרִים	had done
H376	H430	H3117	H0	H1008	H853	H6213
אֲשֶׁר רָא	דִּבֶּר	אֶל	פָּמָלָה	וְיִסְפַּר וְיִמְלֹא	לְאָבִיהם:	also to their father
H834	H1696	H413	H4428	H5608		H1

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 23:18 (Prophecy): And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

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