

1 Kings 13:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.

Analysis

And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.

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 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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיֹּדֶבֶר	אֵלֵהֶם	אָבִיָּהֶם	אִי	זֶה	הַדָּרָךְ	הָלַךְ
said	H413	And their father	what	H2088	unto them What way	went
H1696		H1	H335		H1870	H1980
וַיֵּרָא	בְּנֵי יוֹ	אֶת	הַדָּרָךְ	אֲשֶׁר	הָלַךְ	אִישׁ
had seen	he For his sons	H853	unto them What way	H834	went	the man
H7200	H1121		H1870		H1980	H376
הָאֱלֹהִים	אֲשֶׁר	בָּא	מִיְהוּדָה:			
of God	H834	which came	from Judah			
H430		H935	H3063			