

1 Kings 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:

Analysis

And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:

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 2:1 – Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

אָתָּה וְאַתְּ אָמַר לֹא אָמַר
And he said H3808 I may H3201 not return H7725 with thee nor go in H854
H559 H854 H935

מ	ימ	אתך	אשְׁתָּה	ולא	לְקַם	אֲכָל	וְלֹא	ילא
H3808		with thee neither will I eat	bread	H3808		nor drink	H854	water
	H398		H3899			H8354		H4325

בָּרוּךְ וּמָכַד
with thee in this place H2088