

1 Kings 13:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

Analysis

For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

כִּי	בְּדִבֶּר	אֵלַי	בְּדִבֶּר	יְהוָה	לֹא	תֹאכֵל
H3588	For it was said	H413	For it was said	of the LORD	H3808	Thou shalt eat
	H1697		H1697	H3068		H398
לֶחֶם	וְלֹא	תִשְׁתֶּה	שֵׁם	מַיִם	לֹא	תִשׁוּב
no bread	H3808	nor drink	H8033	water	H3808	there nor turn again
H3899		H8354		H4325		H7725
הֵלַכְתָּ	בְּדֶרֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	הֵלַכְתָּ	זֶה:		
that thou camest	by the way	H834	that thou camest	H0		
H1980	H1870		H1980			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 20:35 (Word): And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him.

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