

1 Kings 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:

Analysis

And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיְהִי י	הַ מַּ	וַיָּשֶׁב יָם,	אֶל	הַ שֻּׁלְחָן	וַיְהִי
H1961	H1992		H413		H1961
And it came to pass as they sat		at the table			
		H7979			
דְּבַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	הַנָּבִי יָא	אֶשְׂרַ	
H1697	H3068	H413	H5030	H834	
that the word	of the LORD	came unto the prophet			
הַשִּׁיבוֹ:					
that brought him back					
H7725					