

1 Kings 13:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

Analysis

And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וּשְׁמָ ע	הַנְּבִיא	אֲשֶׁר	הָשִׁיב ו	מִן
heard	And when the prophet	H834	that brought him back	H4480
H8085	H5030		H7725	
הַדֶּכֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵשׁ	הָאֱלֹהִים	אֲשֶׁר הוּא
from the way	thereof he said	It is the man	of God	H1931
H1870	H559	H376	H430	H834
מִכֹּה	אֶת	פִּי	יְהוָה	וַתֵּן הוּא
who was disobedient	H853	unto the word	of the LORD	hath delivered
H4784		H6310	H3068	H5414
				of the LORD
				H3068
לְאַרְיֵה	וַיִּשְׁבֹּךְ הוּא	וַיַּמֵּת הוּא	כְּדִבְרֵי	
him unto the lion	which hath torn	him and slain	him according to the word	
H738	H7665	H4191	H1697	
יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	דִּבֶּר	לּוֹ:	
of the LORD	H834	which he spake	H0	
H3068		H1696		