

1 Kings 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

Analysis

And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַיִּשָּׂא אֶת נֶבֶל תַּאֲשֵׁשׁ הָאֵלֹהִים וַיִּנֶּחֱהוּ
took up **And the prophet** ^{H853} **the carcase** **of the man** **of God** **and laid**
^{H5375} ^{H5030} ^{H5038} ^{H376} ^{H430} ^{H3240}

אֶל הַחֲמֹר וַיָּבִיאוּהוּ אֶל עִיר
^{H413} **it upon the ass** **and brought it back** **came** ^{H413} **to the city**
^{H2543} ^{H7725} ^{H935} ^{H5892}

וַיִּקְבְּרוּ: לִסְפֹּד הַזֶּקֶן וַיִּנֶּחֱהוּ
And the prophet **and the old** **to mourn** **and to bury**
^{H5030} ^{H2205} ^{H5594} ^{H6912}

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