

1 Kings 13:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

Analysis

For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us'). The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

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	הִיא	יְהִי הָ	בְּדָבָר	אֲשֶׁר	קָרָא	בְּדָבָר
H3588	H1961	H1961	For the saying	H834	which he cried	For the saying
			H1697		H7121	H1697
יְהוָה	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּבֵית	אֵל	כָּל וְעַל
of the LORD	H5921	against the altar	H834	H0	in Bethel	H5921 H3605
H3068		H4196			H1008	
בְּתֵי	הַבָּמֹת	אֲשֶׁר	בְּעָרֵי			
and against all the houses	of the high places	H834	which are in the cities			
H1004	H1116		H5892			
שֶׁמֶרֹן:						
of Samaria						
H8111						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 16:24 (Parallel theme): And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

1 Kings 13:2 (Word): And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

1 Kings 12:31 (Parallel theme): And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

Leviticus 26:30 (Parallel theme): And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.