

1 Kings 13:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

Analysis

After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 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

בְּרַע	ה	מִדְרָכָ	וּ	יְרָבָע	מִ	לֹא	שָׁבַב	לֹא	בְּזַבְבָּר	אַחֲרָ
After	this thing	H2088	H3808	again	Jeroboam	way			not from his evil	
H310	H1697			H7725	H3379	H1870			H7451	
בְּרַע	בְּ	מִקְצָ	וְתִ	בְּעַמְ				כִּי		
again	but made	of the lowest	of the people	him and he became	one of the priests					
H7725	H6213	H7098	H5971					H3548		
בְּתָחוֹתָ		בְּקָרְבָּ		וְמִלְאָ		וְאַתָּ		וְאַתָּ		
of the high places		whosoever would		he consecrated		H853		H3027		H1961
H1116		H2655		H4390						
כִּי								בְּתָחוֹתָ		
him and he became	one of the priests		of the high places							
	H3548		H1116							

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 11:15 (Creation): And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.

2 Chronicles 13:9 (Creation): Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.