

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

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

אַחַר	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה	לֹא	יָשָׁב	וְיִרְבֶּעַם	מִדֶּרֶךְ	הַ
After	this thing	H2088	H3808	again	Jeroboam	way	not from his evil
H310	H1697			H7725	H3379	H1870	H7451
יָשָׁב	וַיַּעַשׂ	מִקְצֹת	הָעָם	כְּהֵנִי			
again	but made	of the lowest	of the people	him and he became one of the priests			
H7725	H6213	H7098	H5971	H3548			
בְּמֹת:	הַחֲפִיץ	יְמִלֵּא	אֶת	יְדֹו	וְיִהְיֶה		
of the high places	whosoever would	he consecrated	H853	H3027	H1961		
H1116	H2655	H4390					
כְּהֵנִי	בְּמֹת:						
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.