

1 Kings 13:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

Analysis

And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

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 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

וַיְהִי H1961	בַּדָּבָר H1697	הַזֶּה H2088	לְחַטֹּאת H2403	בֵּית H1004	יֶרֶבֹעַם H3379
And this thing		became sin	unto the house	of Jeroboam	
וְלִהְיוֹת H3582	וְלִהְיוֹת H8045	יָד H5921	מִפְּנֵי H6440	הָאֲדָמָה H127	
even to cut it off	and to destroy	it from off the face	of the earth		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

1 Kings 12:30 (Sin): And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

2 Kings 17:21 (Sin): For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

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