

1 Kings 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to 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 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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	כְּשֶׁמָּע	הָמָּ לָךְ	אֶת	דְּבַר	אִישׁ
H1961	heard	And it came to pass when king	H853	the saying	of the man
	H8085	H4428		H1697	H376
יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	קָרָא	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	בְּבֵית
of God	H834	which had cried	H5921	against the altar	H0
H430		H7121		H4196	in Bethel
					H1008
שָׁלַח	יֵרֹבָם	אֶת	יָדוֹ	לְמַעַן	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
that he put forth	Jeroboam	H853	his hand	H5921	against the altar
H7971	H3379		H3027		H4196
					H559
וַתִּפְּשׂהוּ	וַתִּיבֶשׂ	יָדוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁלַח	עַל
Lay hold	against him dried up	his hand	H834	that he put forth	H5921
H8610	H3001	H3027		H7971	
וְלֹא	כִּי	לֹא יִשָּׁבֵחַ	אֵלָיו:		
H3808	so that he could	not pull it in again	H413		
	H3201	H7725			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:5 (Parallel theme): And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.