

1 Kings 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

Analysis

And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

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

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֲלֹהִים בְּאֶלְ�לָהִים אֲלֹהִים
said And the man of God unto the king If thou wilt give
H559 H376 H413 H518 H5414
H430 H4428

וְלֹא עַמְתָּה בְּבַיִת־בָּצָר אֶת־לִי
H0 H853 H2677 H1004 I will not go in H5973 H3808
me half thine house H935

אֶל־כָּל־בָּנָק וּמְצָרָה וְלֹא
with thee neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place
H398 H3808 H8354 H4325 H4725

בָּהָה:

H2088

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 24:13 (Parallel theme): If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

Numbers 22:18 (References God): And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

Mark 6:23 (Kingdom): And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

Mark 6:11 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Exodus 5:6 (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

Exodus 7:2 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

Exodus 5:3 (References God): And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

2 Kings 5:16 (Parallel theme): But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

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