

1 Kings 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

Analysis

Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Jeroboam's judgment and Rehoboam's reign, 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

בְּגַלְלֵי יְהוָה בָּבָא הַלְבָנָה לְבִתְהַנְּתָן לְבִתְהַנְּתָן
H859 Arise H1980 thee to thine own house H1004 enter H935 and when thy feet
H6965 H3206 H7272

בָּלְדָן וְמִתְבַּעַר יְהוָה
into the city shall die the child
H5892 H4191 H3206

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