

1 Kings 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.

Analysis

For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.

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 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְהִכְהֶה	יְנִיד	כְּאֶשֶׁר	יִשְׁבָּא	ל	אֶת	יְהֹוָה	וְהִכְהֶה
shall smite	For the LORD	H853	Israel	H834	is shaken	as a reed	

בְּעֵמָה מֵעַל יְשַׁבָּא לְאַתָּה יְנַתֶּשׁ בְּפֶעַם in the water and he shall root up H853 Israel H5921 land H127

לְאָבָ וְתִינְפָּה מַנְתָּן אֲשֶׁר הַזֹּאת הַטוֹּב הַout of this good H2063 H834 which he gave H5414 to their fathers H1

וְיִצְרֹא	לִפְנֵי	רִבְעֵי	בְּרִית	מֵעַד	בְּרִית	וְיִצְרֹא
and shall scatter	them beyond	the river	H3282	H834	because they have made	H6213

את יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר מִכְעִיס יְמֵינָה מִתְּבִנָּה אֶת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 52:5 (Parallel theme): God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

2 Kings 15:29 (Kingdom): In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.

Proverbs 2:22 (Parallel theme): But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.