

1 Kings 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

Analysis

And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

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 prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְקִבְרָה	לְכָל	וְצִפְדָּא	אַתְּ	וְלִשְׁבָּא
And they buried	H853	mourned	H0	him and all Israel
H6912		H5594		H3478
בְּיַד	דָּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	יְהוָה	קִדְבָּר
for him according to the word	of the LORD	H834	which he spake	by the hand
H1697	H3068		H1696	H3027
עֲבָדָה	אֲתִי הֵן	הַנּוֹבֵא		
of his servant	Ahijah	the prophet		
H5650	H281	H5030		

