

1 Kings 14:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.

Analysis

And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְהַיָּמִים	אֲשֶׁר	וַיִּמְלֶךְ	יָרֵבֶּעַ	עָשָׂר	וְשֵׁת	שָׁנָה
And the days		reigned	which Jeroboam	and twenty	were two	years
H3117	H834	H4427	H3379	H6242	H8147	H8141
וַיִּשָּׁכַב	עִם	אֲבֹתָיו	וַיִּמְלֶךְ	נָדָב	בְּנוֹ	תַּחְתָּיו:
and he slept		with his fathers	reigned	and Nadab	his son	
H7901	H5973	H1	H4427	H5070	H1121	H8478

Additional Cross-References

Job 14:12 (Parallel theme): So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

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