

1 Kings 14:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

Analysis

For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וַיִּבְנוּ וְ	גַם	הַ מְּהָ	לָהֶם	בְּמֹת	וּמִצָּבֹת		
For they also built	H1571	H1992	H1992	them high places	and images		
H1129				H1116	H4676		
וְאֲשֶׁר יִם	עַל	כָּל	גִּבְעָה	גִּבְעָה	וְתַחַת	כָּל	עֵץ
and groves	H5921	H3605	hill	on every high	H8478	H3605	tree
H842			H1389	H1364			H6086
רָעֵנָה:							
and under every green							
H7488							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:2 (Parallel theme): Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:

Isaiah 57:5 (Parallel theme): Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the clifts of the rocks?

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