

1 Kings 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.

Analysis

And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	כֵּן	אִשְׁתּוֹ	יִרְבֹּעַם	וַיָּקָם	וַיֵּלֶךְ	שָׁלֹה	
did so	H3651	wife	And Jeroboam's	and arose	H1980	to Shiloh	
H6213		H802	H3379	H6965		H7887	
וַיָּבֹא	בֵּית	וַאֲחִיָּהוּ	וַאֲחִיָּהוּ	לֹא	יָכֹל	לִרְאֹת	כִּי
and came	to the house	But Ahijah	But Ahijah	H3808	could	not see	H3588
H935	H1004	H281	H281		H3201	H7200	
וַיָּקָם	עֵינָיו	מִשִּׁיבּוֹ:					
and arose	for his eyes	by reason of his age					
H6965	H5869	H7869					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:29 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:

1 Samuel 4:15 (Parallel theme): Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

1 Samuel 3:2 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;