

1 Kings 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיְהִי הָאֵל אֶמַר אֶתִּי הוּא הֵן הָאִשְׁתִּי
And the LORD said H3068 H413 H281 H2009 **Behold the wife** H802 **of Jeroboam** H3379

כִּי בָנָה אֶל מַעֲמֶךָ דָּבָר לְדָרֶשׁ כְּבֹאֵה
cometh H935 **to ask** H1875 **a thing** H1697 H5973 H413 **of thee for her son** H3588 H1121

וַיֵּהָיֵא אֶל יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר הֵן הוּא חָלֵל
for he is sick H2470 H1931 **thus** H2090 H2088 **and thus shalt thou say** H1696 H413 H1961

מִתְנַפְּכָהּ: וְהָיָא כְּבֹאֵה
cometh H935 H1931 **that she shall feign herself to be another** H5234