

1 Kings 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

Analysis

And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וְלֹא	לָךְ	וְאַתָּה הָ	דָּוִד	מִבֵּית	הַמַּמְלָכָה	אֶת	וְאַקֵּב עַ
		and gave	David	from the house	the kingdom		And rent
		H5414	H1732	H1004	H4467	H853	H7167
שָׁמַר	רַ	אֲשֶׁר	דָּוִד	כְּעֶבְדִּי		הִי יֵת	
		who kept	David	has not been as my servant		it thee and yet thou	
		H8104	H1732	H5650		H1961	
לִבּוֹ	וְ	בְּכָל	אַחֲרַי	הֵלַךְ	וְאֲשֶׁר	מִצְוֹתַי	
		me with all his heart		and who followed		my commandments	
		H3824		H1980	H834	H4687	
בְּעֵינַי:	הַיָּשָׁר	רַ	כִּי	לַעֲשׂוֹת			
in mine eyes	that only which was right			to do			
H5869	H3477			H6213	H7535		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:5 (References David): Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Acts 13:22 (Kingdom): And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Acts 13:36 (References David): For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

2 Chronicles 17:3 (References David): And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

2 Chronicles 28:1 (Kingdom): Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father:

