

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 לְכָה תִּאֲתַת בְּעֵבֶד אֶת מַבְיַת הַמְּמָלָכָה אֶת תְּאַקֵּב עָבָד
And rent the kingdom from the house David and gave H0 H3808
H7167 H853 H4467 H1004 H1732 H5414

שְׁמָךְ רַאשֵּׁר תְּאַשֵּׁר בְּעֵבֶד יְהִי יְתָה
who kept David it thee and yet thou hast not been as my servant H1961 H5650 H1732 H834 H8104

לְבָבְךָ וְבְכָל אַפְתָּבִי אֲשֶׁר מְצֻוּתִי
me with all his heart and who followed my commandments H4687 H834 H1980 H310 H3605 H3824

בְּעֵינֵי: בְּשִׁיר רַאשֵּׁר לְעֵשׂ וְתַּחֲזִק
in mine eyes that only which was right to do H7535 H3477 H5869 H6213

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:

