

1 Kings 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

Analysis

But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

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

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

וְתַּחֲנֵן	לְפָנֵי יְהָוָה	וְתַּפְגִּשֵּׂה	וְתַּעֲשֵׂה	וְתַּעֲשֵׂה	וְתַּעֲשֵׂה	וְתַּעֲשֵׂה	וְתַּעֲשֵׂה	וְתַּעֲשֵׂה
evil	But hast done	H3605	H834	H1961	above all that were before			H1980
H7489	H6213					H6440		

וְמִשְׁעָשָׂה	לְבָבֶךָ	אֱלֹהִים	אֶחָרֶךָ	וּמִסְכּוֹת
But hast done	H6213	gods	thee other	and molten images

אַחֲרִי	הַשְׁלָכָת	וְאַתָּה	לְפָנָיכֶם	נִ	תַּבְּנֵה
to provoke me to anger	H853	and hast cast	me behind	thy back	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:17 (Parallel theme): Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

Nehemiah 9:26 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

Ezekiel 23:35 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

1 Kings 12:28 (Creation): Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

2 Chronicles 11:15 (Creation): And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.

Exodus 34:17 (References God): Thou shalt make thee no molten gods.

Psalms 106:29 (Parallel theme): Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them.

Psalms 78:40 (Parallel theme): How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

1 Corinthians 10:22 (Parallel theme): Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

Ezekiel 8:3 (References God): And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.