

1 Kings 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

Analysis

And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Judah and Israel: Abijam, Asa, Nadab, Baasha, 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

כָּל	אֶת	יְסַר	בְּאַז	מִן	פְּקִדְשֵׁם	וְעַבְּרֵה	רַ	וְעַבְּרֵה	רַ
And he took away	the sodomites	H4480	out of the land		and removed	H853			H3605
H5674	H6945		H776		H5493				
אֲבָתָיו:	עָשָׂה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּגַלְלֵי	וְעַשְׂתָּה					
all the idols	had made	that his fathers							
H1544	H834	H6213			H1				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:46 (Parallel theme): And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

1 Peter 1:18 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

Jude 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

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