

1 Kings 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.

Analysis

But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Judah and Israel: Abijah, 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for 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

וְהַבְּמֹת	לֹא	סָרֻה	לִבִּי	כִּי	אָסָא
But the high places	H3808	were not removed	H7535	heart	nevertheless Asa's
H1116		H5493	H3824	H609	
הָיָה	שָׁלֵם	עִם	יְהוָה	כָּל	יָמָיו:
H1961	was perfect	H5973	with the LORD	H3605	all his days
H8003		H3068	H3117		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:3 (References Lord): And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

1 Kings 22:43 (References Lord): And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD:

nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

1 Kings 8:61 (References Lord): Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

2 Kings 12:3 (Parallel theme): But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

2 Kings 14:4 (Parallel theme): Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.