

1 Kings 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

Analysis

And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וּמִלְחָמָה הָיָה	הָיָה הָיָה	בֵּין יֵשׁוּעַ	אֶסָּא	וּבֵין יֵשׁוּעַ	בַּעֲשָׂא אֶסָּא	מֶלֶךְ
And there was war	H1961	H996	between Asa	H996	and Baasha	king
H4421			H609		H1201	H4428
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	כָּל יְמֵיהֶם:					
of Israel	H3605	all their days				
H3478		H3117				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:32 (Kingdom): And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

