

1 Kings 15:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

Analysis

And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

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

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

וַיַּעַל	וַיִּבְנֶה א	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַל	יְהוּדָה:	וַיִּבֶן	אֶת
went up	And Baasha	king	of Israel	H5921	against Judah	and built	H853
H5927	H1201	H4428	H3478		H3063	H1129	
רָמָה	לְבִלְתִּי	יִתְּ	יֵצֵא	וְיָבֹא	לְאַסָּא		
Ramah	H1115	that he might not suffer	any to go out	or come in	to Asa		
H7414		H5414	H3318	H935	H609		
מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה:						
king	against Judah						
H4428	H3063						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 12:27 (Kingdom): If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

Joshua 18:25 (Parallel theme): Gibeon, and Ramah, and Beeroth,

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