

1 Kings 15:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants: and king Asa sent them to Ben-hadad, the son of Tabrimon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,

Analysis

Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants: and king Asa sent them to Ben-hadad, the son of Tabrimon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

בְּנֹתֶר יִמְלֹךְ	וּפְנַפְךְ בְּ	בְּ	כָּל	אַת	אָסָף אֶל	וְ
took	Asa	H853	H3605	all the silver	and the gold	that were left
H3947	H609			H3701	H2091	H3498
אַזְכָּרוֹת	בְּ יִת	בְּ	יְהִי הָ	וְאַת	אַזְכָּרוֹת	מְלֹךְ
and the treasures	house	H1004	H3068	H853	and the treasures	house
H214					H214	H1004
מְלֹךְ	בְּ יִת	בְּ	יְהִי הָ	וְאַת	אַזְכָּרוֹת	מְלֹךְ
and king	house	H4428	H4428	H4428	and the treasures	house
H4428						
מְלֹךְ	בְּ יִת	בְּ	יְהִי הָ	וְאַת	אַזְכָּרוֹת	מְלֹךְ
and delivered	them into the hand	H3027	H5650	H7971	H4428	H609
H5414						
אָסָף	מְלֹךְ	בְּ	בְּ יִת	בְּ	אַזְכָּרוֹת	מְלֹךְ
and Asa	and king	H4428	H4428	H4428	and the treasures	house
H609						
מְלֹךְ	בְּ יִת	בְּ	יְהִי הָ	וְאַת	אַזְכָּרוֹת	מְלֹךְ
and Benhadad	the son	H1121	H2886	H1121	H2383	H4428
H413	H0	H1130	H2886	H1121	H2383	H4428
מְלֹךְ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	מְלֹךְ
and Hezion	the son	H1121	H2383	H1121	H2383	H4428
H2383						
מְלֹךְ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	מְלֹךְ
and king	of Hezion	H2383	H4428	H2383	H4428	H4428
H4428						
לְאָמָר:	בְּדִימָה שָׁק	פִּישְׁ בְּ	אָכְם			
of Syria	that dwelt	at Damascus	saying			
H758	H3427	H1834	H559			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:26 (Kingdom): And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

2 Kings 12:18 (Kingdom): And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem.

1 Kings 15:15 (References Lord): And he brought in the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which himself had dedicated, into the house of the LORD, silver, and gold, and vessels.

Genesis 14:15 (Parallel theme): And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

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