

1 Kings 15:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

Analysis

Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

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

שָׁלֹשׁ	שָׁנִים	מָלַךְ	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	וְשֵׁם	אִמּוֹ
Three	years	reigned	he in Jerusalem	~	And his mother's
H7969	H8141	H4427	H3389	H8034	H517
מַעַכָּה	בֵּת	אֲבִישָׁלוֹם:			
was Maachah	the daughter	of Abishalom			
H4601	H1323	H53			

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 13:2 (Kingdom): He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

