

1 Kings 15:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Ben-hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maachah, and all Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

Analysis

So Ben-hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maachah, and all Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

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 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אָתָּה וְיִשְׁלַח אֶל־לְךָ לְרַב־עָם עַל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
 hearkened H0 So Benhadad H413 unto king H4428 Asa H609 and sent H853

H8085 H1130 H4428 H609 H7971 H853

עַל־לֹא אָשֶׁר בְּחִיל־יָם שָׁרֵי
 the captains of the hosts H834 H0 H5921 which he had against the cities H5892

H8269 H2428 H5921 H5892

בֵּית אֶבֶן־יְהוָה וְשָׁבָא לְ
 of Israel and smote H853 Ijon H853 and Dan H853 H0 H0
 H3478 H5221 H5859 H1835

כָּל־עַל מִעְכָּה הִיא תְּכִנֵּר וְתְּכִלֵּנָה
 and Abelbethmaachah H853 H3605 and all Chinneroth H5921 H3605

H62 H3672 H5921 H3605

בְּנֵי־נַפְתָּלִי אֶת־רַצְנֵי
 with all the land of Naphtali H776 H5321

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 15:29 (Kingdom): In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.

Judges 18:29 (References Israel): And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first.

Joshua 11:2 (Kingdom): And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

Joshua 12:3 (Parallel theme): And from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea on the east, the way to Beth-jeshimoth; and from the south, under Ashdoth-pisgah:

1 Kings 12:29 (Parallel theme): And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan.