

1 Kings 15:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Baasha heard thereof, that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when Baasha heard thereof, that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

מִבְנֵו וְתַ	יְהוּדָה לְ	בְּעֵשֶׂת אֲ	כִּשְׁמָן עַ	יָהִי
H1961	heard	And it came to pass when Baasha	thereof that he left off	building
H8085		H1201		H1129
אֶת הַרְמָה הַ	וְשָׁב בְּתִירֵזָה:	וְשָׁב בְּתִירֵזָה:	בְּתִירֵזָה:	
H853	of Ramah	and dwelt	in Tirzah	
H7414		H3427		H8656

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:17 (Parallel theme): And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;