

1 Kings 15:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then king Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted: and they took away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and king Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

Analysis

Then king Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted: and they took away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and king Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

הָמָּ לָךְ Then king H4428	אָסָּ Asa H609	הִשָּׁמָּ יַעַ made a proclamation H8085	אֶת H853	כָּל H3605	יְהוּדָה throughout all Judah H3063	אֵין H369
בָּקָן none was exempted H5355	וַיִּשָּׂא וּ and they took H5375	אֶת H853	אֲבָנֵי away the stones H68	הַרְמָה of Ramah H7414	וְאֶת H853	
וְעֵץ יָה and the timber H6086	אֲשֶׁר H834	וַיִּבְנֶה built H1129	בְּעֵשׂ thereof wherewith Baasha H1201	וַיִּבְנֶה built H1129	בָּם H0	
הָמָּ לָךְ Then king H4428	אָסָּ Asa H609	אֶת H853	גִּבְעָה with them Geba H1387	בְּנֵימִן of Benjamin H1144	וְאֶת H853	הַמִּצְפָּה and Mizpah H4709

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 21:17 (Parallel theme): And out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with her suburbs, Geba with her suburbs,

Joshua 18:24 (Parallel theme): And Chephar-haammonai, and Ophni, and Gaba; twelve cities with their villages:

Joshua 18:26 (Parallel theme): And Mizpeh, and Chephirah, and Mozah,