

1 Kings 15:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

Analysis

And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

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|-----------|--------|-----------------|------------|--------|-------------------|--------------|
| וַיֵּלֶךְ | בְּכָל | חַטֹּאת | אָבִיו: | אֲשֶׁר | עָשָׂה | לִפְנֵי יְיָ |
| H1980 | H3605 | in all the sins | his father | H834 | which he had done | before |
| | | H2403 | H1 | | H6213 | H6440 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|--------------|
| וְלֹא | הָיָה | בְּלִבּוֹ | שְׁלֵמָה | עִם | יְהוָה | אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ |
| H3808 | H1961 | as the heart | was not perfect | H5973 | with the LORD | his God |
| | | H3824 | H8003 | | H3068 | H430 |

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| בְּלִבּוֹ | דָּוִד | אָבִיו: |
| as the heart | of David | his father |
| H3824 | H1732 | H1 |

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:4 (References God): For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

Psalms 119:80 (Parallel theme): Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

1 Kings 3:14 (References David): And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

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