

1 Kings 15:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years.

Analysis

In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

בָּעֵשׂ אֵת לְרֹאשׁ שְׁלֹשׁ שְׁנָתָה:
year In the third of Asa king of Judah to reign began Baasha
H8141 H7969 H609 H4428 H3063 H4427 H1201

וְאֶרְבָּע עַשֶּׂר יָמִים בְּתַרְצָה הַיּוֹדֵעַ אֶת־כָּל־עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי אַחִי הַיְהוּדָה
the son of Ahijah H5921 H3605 over all Israel in Tirzah twenty and four
H1121 H281 H3478 H8656 H6242 H702

שְׁנָתָה:

year
H8141

