

1 Kings 15:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:

Analysis

Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

לֹא	אָלָּא	וְ	אֱלֹהִים	יְהֹוָה	הַנְּתָן	לְמַעַן	כִּי	לְמַעַן	כִּי	לְמַעַן	כִּי
H3588	H4616		Nevertheless for David's		give	sake did the LORD		his God			H0
			H1732		H5414		H3068				H430
him a lamp	Jerusalem	to set up		his son		after		him and to establish			
H5216	H3389	H6965	H853	H1121	H310			H5975			
את	ירֹשֶׁלָּם:	את	לְבָקֵם	בָּנָו	אַתָּה	בְּנֵי	אַתָּה	לְפָעָם	אַתָּה		
H853	H3389				H1121		H310	H5975			
Jerusalem											

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:36 (References David): And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

2 Chronicles 21:7 (References Lord): Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.

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