

1 Kings 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Analysis

Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אֶשׂר	עָשָׂה	דָּוִד	אֶת	הַיָּשָׁר	בְּעֵינַי
H834	did	Because David	H853	that which was right	in the eyes
	H6213	H1732		H3477	H5869
יְהוָה	וְלֹא	סָר	מִכָּל	אֲשֶׁר	
of the LORD	H3808	and turned not aside	H3605	H834	
H3068		H5493			
צֵוָהוּ	כָּל	יָמָיו	חַיָּיו	בְּקִי	
from any thing that he commanded	H3605	him all the days	of his life	H7535	
H6680		H3117	H2416		
בְּדָבָר	אֲוִרְיָה	הַחִתִּי			
save only in the matter	of Uriah	the Hittite			
H1697	H223	H2850			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:8 (References David): And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

Luke 1:6 (References Lord): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

1 Kings 9:4 (References David): And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: