

1 Kings 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

Analysis

For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Israel: elah, zimri, omri, ahab, 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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אֲשֶׁר בָּנָיו אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ כָּל אֶל	H413 H3605 H2403	For all the sins of Baasha	H1201	בְּעֵשׂ אֶת וְמַטְ אֶת כָּל אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ	H2403 H425	For all the sins of Elah	H1121	אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ בָּנָיו אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ	H834
בְּחַטֶּאת יְאֹו אֲשֶׁר בָּנָיו אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ	H834 H2398	by which they sinned	H2398	בְּחַטֶּאת יְאֹו אֲשֶׁר בָּנָיו אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ	H853 H2398	by which they sinned	H853	אֲתָּה יְהוָה	
וְשָׁבָא לְבַקְעָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	H3478	and by which they made Israel		אֲתָּה לְבַקְעָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	H853 H3707	to anger in provoking the LORD	H3068	וְשָׁבָא לְבַקְעָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	H430
וְשָׁבָא לְבַקְעָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים:	H1892	and by which they made Israel with their vanities							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:21 (References God): They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Isaiah 41:29 (Parallel theme): Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion.

1 Kings 15:30 (Creation): Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

1 Samuel 12:21 (Parallel theme): And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.