

1 Kings 16:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

Analysis

In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

שָׁנָה	עֶשְׂרִים	שִׁבְעָה	שָׁנָה	לְאַסָּא	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה
year	In the twenty	and seventh	year	of Asa	king	of Judah
H8141	H6242	H7651	H8141	H609	H4428	H3063
מָלַךְ	זִמְרִי	שִׁבְעָה	יָמִים	בְּתִירְצָה	וְהָעָם	
reign	did Zimri	and seventh	days	in Tirzah	And the people	
H4427	H2174	H7651	H3117	H8656	H5971	
חֻנָּה	עַל	גִּבְתֹּן	אֲשֶׁר	לְפִלְשְׁתִּים:		
were encamped		against Gibbethon		which belonged to the Philistines		
H2583	H5921	H1405	H834	H6430		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:27 (Parallel theme): And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.

Joshua 19:44 (Parallel theme): And Eltekeh, and Gibbethon, and Baalath,

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