

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

יְהוָה הָיָה מֵלֶךְ לְאָסָא שָׁנָה שְׁבֻעָת עָשָׂר יָמִים שְׁנָה הָיָה
year In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah

וְכָל הַמַּעֲשָׂה בְּתַרְצָה הַיּוֹם שְׁבֻעָת זִמְרִי מֵלֶךְ
reign did Zimri and seventh days in Tirzah And the people

לְפָלָשְׁתִּים: אֲשֶׁר רָגַבְתָּ וְעַל חָנָן יָמִים
which belonged to the Philistines: which belonged to the Philistines

were encamped H5921 against Gibbethon 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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