

1 Kings 16:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

Analysis

And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַעֲלֶה	וַעֲמִר	וְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עִמּוֹ	מִגִּבְתֹּן
went up	And Omri	H3605	and all Israel	H5973	from Gibbethon
H5927	H6018		H3478		H1405
וְצָרוּ			תִּרְצָה:		
with him and they besieged			H5921	Tirzah	
H6696				H8656	