

1 Kings 16:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;

Analysis

Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

רַאשֵּׁךְ	בְּרִיאָתְךָ	מִן	קָרְבָּךְ	תִּאְתַּבְּ
H3282	H834	H4480	H6083	H5414
Forasmuch as I exalted	H7311	thee out of the dust		and made
בְּךָ רֹא	תִּתְּלַתֵּן	וְשִׁבָּא	לְ	בְּדַיִד
thee prince	H5921	and hast made my people	Israel	H1980
H5057	H5971	H3478	H1870	
וְיָרַבְתָּ	אֶת	עַמְּךָ	וְשִׁבָּא	לְ
of Jeroboam	to sin	H853	and hast made my people	Israel
H3379	H2398	H5971	H3478	
לְפָכְעֵיכֶם	בְּמַטְאָתֶם			
to provoke me to anger	with their sins			
H3707	H2403			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:34 (Creation): And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

1 Kings 14:7 (Creation): Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

1 Samuel 2:8 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.