

1 Kings 16:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.

Analysis

In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

שָׁנִים:	שְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	וְאַחַת	שָׁנִים:	לְאַסָּא	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה	מֶלֶךְ
year	In the thirty	and first	year	of Asa	king	of Judah	reigned
H8141	H7970	H259	H8141	H609	H4428	H3063	H4427

עֹמְרִי	עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	שְׁנַת יָמִים	עָשָׂר ה'	שָׁנִים:	בְּתִרְזָח	מֶלֶךְ
began Omri		over Israel	twelve		year	he in Tirzah	reigned
H6018	H5921	H3478	H8147	H6240	H8141	H8656	H4427

שָׁנִים:	שֵׁשׁ
year	six
H8141	H8337