

1 Kings 16:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

Analysis

For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וְיִשְׁרָאֵל בְּכָל־דַּרְבֵּי יְהוָה וְיִרְבֶּעֶם בְּכָל־בָּנָיו בְּנֵי נְבָט וְבְנֵי לְגָם
H1980 H3605 in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and in his sin
H1870 H3379 H1121 H5028 H2403

וְיִשְׁרָאֵל לֹא תַּחֲטֹא אֶת־הָרָא תַּחֲטֹא יְהוָה אֶת־הָרָא
H834 to sin H853 of Israel H3478 to anger H853 to provoke the LORD
H2398 H1892 H3068

בְּבָבִילוֹן: יִשְׁרָאֵל אֶלְפָתִים
God of Israel with their vanities
H430 H3478 H1892

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 16:19 (Sin): For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin.

1 Kings 16:13 (Creation): For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

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