

1 Kings 16:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD
above all that were before him.

Analysis

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	אָחָא ב	בֶּן	עֹמְרִי	רָע	בְּעֵינֵי	יְהוָה	מִכָּל ל
did	And Ahab	the son	of Omri	evil	in the sight	of the LORD	H3605
H6213	H256	H1121	H6018	H7451	H5869	H3068	
אֲשֶׁר	לְפָנָיו:						
H834	above all that were before						
	H6440						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 16:25 (Evil): But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him.

1 Kings 14:9 (Evil): But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

1 Kings 21:25 (Evil): But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

2 Kings 3:2 (Evil): And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made.

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