

1 Kings 16:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

Analysis

And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

לָעַשׂ	וְת	אַחַב	ב	אֶת	הָאֵשׁ	הַ	וְיֹסֵף	ב	אַחַב	וְת	לָעַשׂ
did		And Ahab			a grove		more		And Ahab		did
H6213		H256		H853	H842		H3254		H256		H6213
לְהַכְעִיִּם	אֶת	יְהוָה		יִשְׂרָאֵל	ל	אֱלֹהֵי	י	מֶלֶךְ	ל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְפָנָיו
to anger		to provoke the LORD		God		of Israel					
H3707		H3068		H430		H3478					
מֶלֶךְ	י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	ל	אֵשׁ	ר	הִי	ו	לְפָנָיו			
than all the kings		of Israel						that were before			
H4428		H3478		H834		H1961		H6440			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 13:6 (Creation): Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.)

1 Kings 21:25 (References Lord): 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.

Exodus 34:13 (Parallel theme): But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

2 Kings 21:3 (Kingdom): For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

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