

1 Kings 16:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.

Analysis

In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.

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

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

יְרִיחָה אָתָּה בְּנֵי יְהוָה בְּנֵי יְהוָה
In his days build did Hiel H0 the Bethelite H853 Jericho
H3117 H1129 H2419 H1017 H853 H3405

וְבָשָׂג יְבָשָׂג מִבְּנֵי אַבְרָהָם יְסַדֵּה בְּנֵר זָהָב
thereof in Abiram his firstborn he laid the foundation son Segub
H48 H1060 H3245 H7687

יְהִי הַדְלָת יְהִי קְדֻשָּׁה רְאֵשָׁיו
thereof in his youngest and set up the gates according to the word of the LORD
H6810 H5324 H1817 H1697 H3068

תּוֹלֵךְ רְאֵשָׁיו בְּנֵי דָבָר בְּנֵי דָבָר
which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun
H834 H1696 H3027 H3091 H1121 H5126

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 6:26 (References Lord): And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

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