

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

יְהִיחֵ הָאֶת	הָאֶלִי יִ	בֵּית חִיָּא ל	בָּנָה בְּיָמָיו	
Jericho	the Bethelite	did Hiel	In his days	
H3405	H1017	H2419	H3117	
וּבֶשֶׁג יֵב	יָסַד הָ	בְּכֹר וְ	בְּאַבִּירָם	
son Segub	he laid the foundation	his firstborn	thereof in Abiram	
H7687	H3245	H1060	H48	
יְהוָה הָ	כְּדָבָר ר	דָּלְתֵי יָה	הֵצִיב	צָעִירוֹ
of the LORD	according to the word	the gates	and set up	thereof in his youngest
H3068	H1697	H1817	H5324	H6810
נֹון:	בֶּן	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	בִּיד	דָּבָר ר
of Nun	the son	Joshua	by	which he spake
H5126	H1121	H3091	H3027	H1696
				H834

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.