

1 Kings 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah:
and Elah his son reigned in his stead.

Analysis

So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah: and Elah his son reigned in his stead.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיָּשָׁב ב	בַּעֲשָׂא	עִם	אֲבֹתָיו	וַיִּקָּבֵר	בְּתִרְזָח	וַיִּמְלֹךְ
slept	So Baasha	H5973	with his fathers	and was buried	in Tirzah	reigned
H7901	H1201		H1	H6912	H8656	H4427
אֵלָּה	בְּנוֹ	תִּחְתִּיּוֹ:				
and Elah	his son	H8478				
H425	H1121					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 14:17 (Parallel theme): And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;

1 Kings 15:21 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Baasha heard thereof, that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah.

