

1 Kings 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years.

Analysis

In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

יְהוֹדָה מֶלֶךְ לְאַסָּא שְׁנַתִּים: עָשָׂר יָמִים וְשֵׁשׁ שְׁנַתִּים:

two years **In the twenty** **and sixth** **two years** **of Asa** **king** **of Judah**
H8141 H6242 H8337 H8141 H609 H4428 H3063

שְׁנַתִּים: בְּתִרְזָח הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל עַל בַּעֲשָׁא בֶן אֵלָה מֶלֶךְ

to reign **began Elah** **the son** **of Baasha** ^{H5921} **over Israel** **in Tirzah** **two years**
H4427 H425 H1121 H1201 H3478 H8656 H8141