

1 Kings 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah.

Analysis

And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

רִקְשָׁה יְהִי עָלָיו עָבָד זִמְרִי שֵׁר מִחְצֵית בָּנָכְבָּן	רִקְשָׁה יְהִי עָלָיו עָבָד זִמְרִי שֵׁר מִחְצֵית בָּנָכְבָּן
conspired H7194	And his servant H5921
	Zimri H2174
	captain H8269
	of half H4276
	his chariots H7393
וְאֵה וְאֵה בְּתִרְצָה:	וְאֵה וְאֵה בְּתִרְצָה:
H1931	against him as he was in Tirzah H8656
	drinking H8354
	himself drunk H7910
	in the house H1004
וְאֵת עַל אֲשֶׁר אָרֶץ אֶת בְּתִרְצָה:	וְאֵת עַל אֲשֶׁר אָרֶץ אֶת בְּתִרְצָה:
of Arza H777	in the house H5921
	against him as he was in Tirzah H8656

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 24:2 (Parallel theme): And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

Genesis 39:4 (Parallel theme): And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

1 Kings 18:3 (Parallel theme): And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: