

1 Kings 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

Analysis

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Elijah and the drought, within the book's focus on prophetic ministry of Elijah confronting Baalism.

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. Elijah's ministry (c. 860-850 BCE) occurred during Ahab's reign, a time of intense spiritual crisis in Israel.

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

כִּי אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֲלֹהֵי יִשְׁבָּא לְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי
H3588 H3541 For thus saith that the LORD God of Israel The barrel
H559 H3068 H430 H3478 H3537

לֹא תַּכְלֵל הַמַּחְמָדָה וְנִצְפֵּחַ תַּחֲנֵן מִן־
of meal shall not waste neither shall the cruse of oil H3808
H7058 H3808 H3615 H6835 H8081

פָּנָי עַל גַּשְׁמָה יְהוָה תַּתְּנִיחַ וְמִן־
fail until the day sendeth that the LORD rain upon
H2637 H5704 H3117 H5414 H3068 H1653 H5921 H6440

הָאָדָמָה:

the earth

H127

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 7:1 (References Lord): Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

2 Kings 3:16 (References Lord): And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.

1 Kings 17:4 (Parallel theme): And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

2 Kings 9:6 (References God): And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel.

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