

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

Psalms 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	כֹה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בַּדֶּבֶר
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	that the LORD	God	of Israel	The barrel
		H559	H3068	H430	H3478	H3537
לֶחֶם	לֹא	תִבָּזֵק	וְצִפֹּתָהּ	לֹא	הַשֶּׁמֶן	לֹא
of meal		shall not waste	neither shall the cruse	of oil		
H7058	H3808	H3615	H6835	H8081		H3808
תַּחֲסֹר	עַד	יּוֹם	תִּתֵּן	יְהוָה	גֶּשֶׁם	פָּנֵי י
fail		until the day	sendeth	that the LORD	rain	upon
H2637	H5704	H3117	H5414	H3068	H1653	H5921 H6440

הָאֲדָמָה:

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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