

1 Kings 17:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

Analysis

And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

עַל בְּ גַם אֱלֹהִים יְהֹוָה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהֹוָה הָאֵל בְּקָרְבָּן אָל
And he cried H413 O LORD H3068 and said H559 O LORD H3068 my God H1571 H5921
H7121 H430

עַמְתָּךְ רַב אָנָּא אֲשֶׁר בְּאַלְמָנָה הַמְתָגֹעַ רַב
upon the widow H490 H834 H589 with whom I sojourn H1481 H5973
H1121

בְּרִעַ וְתַּחֲנֵן יְהֹוָה אֶת לְבָנָה
hast thou also brought evil H7489 by slaying H4191 H853 her son H1121

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:22 (Parallel theme): And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Psalms 99:6 (References Lord): Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Exodus 17:4 (References Lord): And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

2 Kings 19:15 (References God): And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

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