

1 Kings 17:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

Analysis

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַתִּמָּדֵד ד	עַל	הִי לֵד	שָׁלֹשׁ	פְּעָמִים	וַיִּקְרָא
And he stretched	H5921	I pray thee let this child's	three	times	and cried
H4058		H3206	H7969	H6471	H7121
אָל	וַיֹּאמֶר ר	יְהוָה ה	אֱלֹהֵי י	תִּשָּׁב	נָא
H413	O LORD	and said	O LORD	my God	again
H3068	H559	H3068	H430	H7725	H4994
					soul
					H5315
הִי לֵד	קִרְבּוֹ:	עַל	הִי ה		
I pray thee let this child's	H2088	H5921	into him		
H3206			H7130		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:10 (Parallel theme): And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

Acts 9:40 (Prayer): But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Hebrews 11:19 (References God): Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

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