

1 Kings 17:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

Analysis

And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

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 prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

יְדָעָתִי	זֶה	עַתָּה	אֵלֶּי	אַל	פָּאֵשָׁה	וְתֵאמֶר	סֹאֵד
I know	this	now	to Elijah	not	desire	said	Heb 5:5
H3045	H2088	H6258	H452	H413	H802	And the woman	said
הִנֵּה	הַדָּבָר	אֲתָה	אֱלֹהָים	אַתָּה	אֲשֶׁר	כִּי	אַתָּה
of the LORD	and that the word	that	God	that	you are	that	you are
H3068	H1697	H859	H430	H376	that thou art a man	H3588	Heb 3:1
בְּלֹא	אָמֵת	בְּלֹא	יְהִי	בְּלֹא	יְהִי	בְּלֹא	יְהִי
in thy mouth	is truth	in thy mouth	truth	in thy mouth	truth	in thy mouth	truth
H6310	H571	H6310	H571	H6310	H571	H6310	H571

Additional Cross-References

John 16:30 (References God): Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

John 3:2 (References God): The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

John 2:11 (Parallel theme): This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

1 John 2:21 (Truth): I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Ecclesiastes 12:10 (Word): The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

John 11:42 (Parallel theme): And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 15:24 (Parallel theme): If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

John 11:15 (Parallel theme): And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Word): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.