

1 Kings 17:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

Analysis

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

מִבְּרָכָה	מִלְּ	וְפָנֵי	הַ	תָּשַׁׁתַּחַת	הַ	בְּעָרְבָּה	יְמִין	וְאַתָּה
H1961	of the brook	And it shall be that thou shalt drink	H853				the ravens	H6158
H5158		H8354					H6158	
אָנֹ יְמִין		שְׁמָן:	לְכַלְּכָלָב					
and I have commanded		to feed	H8033					
H6680		H3557						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 17:9 (Parallel theme): Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

Psalms 147:9 (Parallel theme): He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

Matthew 4:4 (Parallel theme): But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Job 38:41 (Parallel theme): Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

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