

1 Kings 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalm 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

יְהִי הָ	מִתְּבָנָה	אֵלֶּנֶת	אֵלֶּן	מִתְּבָנָה	מִתְּבָנָה	מִתְּבָנָה
H1961	H589	H1980	H853	from thee that the Spirit	of the LORD	
				H7307		H3068
לֹא אָשָׁר עַל יְשָׁאָב	אֵלֶּן	אֵלֶּן	אֵלֶּן	אֵלֶּן	אֵלֶּן	אֵלֶּן
shall carry	H5921	H834	H3808	thee whither I know	not and so when I come	
	H5375			H3045		H935
וְלֹא לְאַחֲרָב לְהַבְדֵּל	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא
and tell	Ahab	H3808	and he cannot find	thee he shall slay		
	H5046	H256		H4672		H2026
מִנְעָרִי יְהִי הָ	אֶת יְמֵנָךְ	אֶת יְמֵנָךְ	אֶת יְמֵנָךְ	אֶת יְמֵנָךְ	אֶת יְמֵנָךְ	אֶת יְמֵנָךְ
me but I thy servant	fear	H853	of the LORD	from my youth		
	H5650	H3372		H3068		H5271

Additional Cross-References

Acts 8:39 (Spirit): And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

2 Kings 2:16 (Spirit): And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.

Ezekiel 8:3 (Spirit): And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

Ezekiel 11:24 (Spirit): Afterwards the spirit took me up, and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me.

Ezekiel 37:1 (Spirit): The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2 Kings 2:11 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org