

1 Kings 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here:
and he shall slay me.

Analysis

And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.

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 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וְעַתָּה	אַתָּה ה	אָמַר	לְךָ	אָמַר	לְאֲדֹנָי יְיָ
H6258	H859	And now thou sayest	H1980	And now thou sayest	thy lord
		H559		H559	H113

הִנֵּה ה	אֵלֵי הוּא	וְהִכָּנְנִי:
H2009	Behold Elijah	is here and he shall slay
	H452	H2026

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