

1 Kings 18:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.

Analysis

And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.

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

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

עַמְּדָה אֲשֶׁר אֶלְיָהוּ הוּא אָמַר
said And Elijah liveth As the LORD of hosts H834 whom I stand
H559 H452 H2416 H3068 H6635 H5975

אַלְיָהוּ אֶתְתָּא הִנֵּה מִמֶּנִּי לַפְנֵי יְהוָה
before myself unto him to day I will surely shew H413
H6440 H3588 H3117 H7200

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 17:1 (References Lord): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 Kings 18:10 (References Lord): As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

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