

1 Kings 18:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

Analysis

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

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. Canaanite fertility religion promised agricultural prosperity through ritual practices honoring Baal (storm god) and Asherah (mother goddess), posing constant temptation to syncretism. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

אָל יִשְׁרָאֵל שְׁלֹחْ כִּי שְׁלֹחْ כִּי אֶל אֶל אֶל אֶל כָּל כָּל כָּל כָּל
H6258 Now therefore send and gather H413 H853 H3605 to me all Israel H413
H7971 H6908 H413 H853 H3605 H3478
מֵא וָת אֶרְבָּעָה עַל הַבָּעֵל וְתַבִּיא אֶת הַכְּרָמָה לְבַר
unto mount Carmel and the prophets of Baal four hundred
H2022 H3760 H853 H5030 H1168 H702 H3967
אֶכְלָה וְמֵא וָת אֶרְבָּעָה בְּאֵשֶׁרֶת וְתַבִּיא אֶת יְמִינָשׁ יִם
and fifty and the prophets of the groves four hundred which eat
H2572 H5030 H842 H702 H3967 H398
אִיזְבֵּל: שְׁלָמָן
table at Jezebel's
H7979 H348

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 19:26 (Parallel theme): And Alammelech, and Amad, and Misheal; and reacheth to Carmel westward, and to Shihor-libnath;

1 Kings 16:33 (References Israel): And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

2 Kings 2:25 (Parallel theme): And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria.