

1 Kings 18:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

Analysis

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְהִזְעִיק אֶל־קָרְבָּן בְּשֵׁם קָאָלָה יְמִינָה אֶל־קָרְבָּן בְּשֵׁם הָרָא־הָרָא

And call on the ~ and the God And call on the ~ of the LORD
H7121 H8034 H430 H589 H7121 H8034 H3068

וְיִשְׁעַן קָאָלָה יְמִינָה אֲשֶׁר קָאָלָה יְמִינָה וְיִתְּפַנֵּה

and the God and the God and the God answered by fire and the God answered
H1961 H430 H834 H6030 H784 H1931 H430 H6030

כֹּל כָּל בְּמַעַן וְיִאָמְרֶנּוּ טְבָן פְּדָבָרְנּוּ

And all the people and said It is well spoken
H3605 H5971 H559 H2896 H1697

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:38 (References Lord): Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

1 Chronicles 21:26 (References Lord): And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

Leviticus 9:24 (References Lord): And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

2 Chronicles 7:1 (References Lord): Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

2 Chronicles 7:3 (References Lord): And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.
