

1 Kings 18:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

Analysis

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְקַרְאוּ	בְּמִשְׁפָּט	מִתְגַּדְּלָו	בְּקַרְבָּו	גַּד וְלִבְנָו	וְקַרְאוּ	אֲלֹתְּלָא	וְקַרְאוּ
And they cried	themselves after their manner	and cut	in	and	and	and	and
H7121	H4941	H1413	H5921	H1419	H8210	H1818	H5704

עַלְיָהָם	זֶה	שָׁפֵךְ	בְּחַרְמָחִים	עַד	וְבְרַמְמָחִים	וְתַחֲרַב	וְתַחֲרַב
with knives	till the blood	gushed out	lancets	and	and	and	and
H2719	H1818	H8210	H7420	H5704	H1413	H1419	H6963

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 19:28 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Deuteronomy 14:1 (Parallel theme): Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.

Mark 5:5 (Parallel theme): And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

Mark 9:22 (Parallel theme): And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

Micah 6:7 (Parallel theme): Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

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