

1 Kings 18:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:

Analysis

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

עַל אִשָּׁר וְעַבְדֵּי הוּא אֶחָב ב וְקָרָא א
called And Ahab H413 Now Obadiah H834 H5921
H7121 H256 H5662

הָיָה הוּא הָיָה א יָרָא אֶת יְהוָה
which was the governor of his house Now Obadiah H1961 feared H853 the LORD
H1004 H5662 H3373 H3068

מְאֹד:
greatly
H3966

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 7:2 (Parallel theme): That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

Matthew 10:28 (Parallel theme): And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

1 Kings 16:9 (Parallel theme): And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah.

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