

1 Kings 18:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

Analysis

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

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 sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

וַיֵּצֵר ה'	אֶת	הָעֵצַ יָם	וַיִּבְתַּח	אֶת	הַפָּר	וַיִּשָּׂם
And he put	H853	and on the wood	and cut	H853	the bullock	in pieces and laid
H6186		H6086	H5408		H6499	H7760
עַל	הָעֵצַ יָם	וַיֹּאמֶר	מִלֵּא ו	אַרְבָּעָה	כִּדָּיִם	מִיָּם
H5921	and on the wood	and said	Fill	four	barrels	with water
	H6086	H559	H4390	H702	H3537	H4325
וַיִּזְק ו	עַל	הָעֵלָה	וְעַל	הָעֵצַ יָם		
and pour	H5921	it on the burnt sacrifice	H5921	and on the wood		
H3332		H5930		H6086		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 22:9 (Sacrifice): And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Judges 6:20 (Parallel theme): And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

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