

1 Kings 18:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Analysis

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

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 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וַיְהִי יוֹם	בָּעֵל וְזֶה	הַמִּנְחָה הַזֹּאת				
H1961	And it came to pass at the time of the offering		of the evening sacrifice			
		H5927			H4503	
וַיָּבֹאוּ	אֵלָיו הוּא	הַנָּבִיא	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה ה	אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲבִרְהָם
came near	that Elijah	the prophet	and said	LORD	God	of Abraham
H5066	H452	H5030	H559	H3068	H430	H85
וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	הַיּוֹם	יָדָע	כִּי	אֵת ה	אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
Isaac	and of Israel	this day	let it be known	H3588	H859	God
H3327	H3478	H3117	H3045			H430
וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאֵנִי	עֶבֶדְךָ	הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה		
and of Israel	H589	and that I am thy servant		all these things at thy word		
H3478		H5650		H1697		
וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	כָּל	הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה	יְהוָה:		
and that I have done	H853	H3605	all these things at thy word	H428		
H6213			H1697			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:29 (Sacrifice): And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

Exodus 3:6 (References God): Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

2 Kings 19:19 (References God): Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

1 Kings 8:43 (References Israel): Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth

may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Ephesians 3:14 (References Lord): For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Matthew 22:32 (References God): I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Acts 3:1 (Parallel theme): Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Ephesians 1:17 (References God): That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

John 11:42 (Parallel theme): And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.