

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

בָּעֵל וְתַ

בְּמִנְחָה הַ

H1961

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice

H5927

H4503

אָבִרָהָם

אֱלֹהִים

הַנּוּבִיא

וַיֹּאמֶר

לֵדֹבֶר

אֱלֹהִים

אֱלֹהִים

came near

that Elijah

the prophet

and said

to the Lord

God

of Abraham

H5066

H452

H5030

H559

H3068

H430

H85

אֶלְעָזָר

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל

בְּיַמִּים

בְּיַמִּים

בְּיַמִּים

אֱלֹהִים

אֱלֹהִים

Isaac

and of Israel

this day

let it be known

H3588

H859

God

H3327

H3478

H3117

H3045

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל

בְּיַמִּים

בְּיַמִּים

בְּיַמִּים

בְּמִנְחָה

and of Israel

H589

and that I am thy servant

all these things at thy word

H3478

H5650

H1697

בְּמִנְחָה

בְּמִנְחָה

בְּמִנְחָה

בְּמִנְחָה

בְּמִנְחָה

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.