

1 Kings 18:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Analysis

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיֵּרָא	כָּל	הָעָם	וַיִּפֹּל וְ	עַל	פְּנֵיהֶם
saw	H3605	And when all the people	it they fell	H5921	on their faces
H7200		H5971	H5307		H6440
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	יְהוָה	הוא	הָאֱלֹהִים:	יְהוָה	הוא
and they said	The LORD	H1931	he is the God	The LORD	H1931
H559	H3068		H430	H3068	H430

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:24 (References God): And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

1 Kings 18:21 (References God): And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

2 Chronicles 7:3 (References Lord): And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

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