

1 Kings 18:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

Analysis

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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 H1961	בַּשְּׁבַע יָת H7637	אָמַר H559	הִנֵּה H2009	עַב H5645	קֻטַּנָּה H6996
And it came to pass at the seventh time	And he said	cloud	a little		
כַּכָּף H3709	אֶיֶשׁ H376	עַל הַ H5927	מִיָּם H3220	אָמַר H559	
hand	like a man's	Behold there ariseth	out of the sea	And he said	
עַל הַ H5927	אָמַר H559	אֶל H413	אֶחָאָב H256	אֶסֶר H631	
Behold there ariseth	And he said	unto Ahab	Prepare		
וְרִד H3381	וְלֹא H3808	יַעֲצָרְךָ הַ H6113	הַגֶּשֶׁם: H1653		
thy chariot and get thee down	stop	that the rain			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:54 (Resurrection): And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

Job 8:7 (Parallel theme): Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

Zechariah 4:10 (Parallel theme): For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

Micah 1:13 (Parallel theme): O thou inhabitant of Lachish, bind the chariot to the swift beast: she is the beginning of the sin to the daughter of Zion: for the transgressions of Israel were found in thee.