

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	בָּשְׁבֻעַ יְהִי	אָמַר	הַפָּה	עַבְדָּה	קָטָן
H1961	And it came to pass at the seventh time	H559	H2009	cloud	a little
	H7637		H2009	H5645	H6996
בְּכַף	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	מִן	אָמַר	
hand	like a man's	Behold there ariseth	out of the sea	And he said	
H3709	H376	H5927	H3220	H559	
עַל	רָא	אָמַר	אָסֵר	אָסֵר	
Behold there ariseth	And he said	H413	unto Ahab	Prepare	
H5927	H559	H256	H631		
יְהִי	דַּי	הַלְאָ	הַגְּשָׁם		
thy chariot and get thee down	H3808	stop	that the rain		
H3381	H6113	H1653			

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.