

1 Kings 18:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Analysis

And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

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 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיַּשְׁבַּת ס	אֵלִיָּהוּ	אֵל	פִּתְחָה	יְהִי הָיָה	יְהִי הָיָה	יְהִי הָיָה
was on Elijah	and he girded up					
And the hand	of the LORD					
H3027	H3068		H1961	H413	H452	H8151

זְרַעַלְלָה:	בְּאֹכֶל הַ	עַד	אַחֲרָא בְּ	לִפְנֵי	וְ	מִתְּנַן	וְ	בְּ	זְרַעַלְלָה:
of Jezreel	to the entrance		Ahab						
his loins	and ran	before							
H4975	H7323	H6440							

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:3 (References Lord): The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

Ezekiel 3:14 (References Lord): So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

2 Kings 3:15 (References Lord): But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

Isaiah 8:11 (References Lord): For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,

Jeremiah 1:17 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

Matthew 22:21 (Parallel theme): They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

2 Kings 9:1 (Parallel theme): And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead:

1 Peter 1:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 6:14 (Parallel theme): Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

2 Kings 4:29 (Parallel theme): Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.