

1 Kings 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.

Analysis

And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

כָּל	אֶל	בָּא רֶץ	לֵךְ	עַ בְּדֹהוּ	אֶל	אֶחָב	וַיֹּאמֶר
	unto	into the land		unto Obadiah		And Ahab	said
H3605	H413	H776	H1980	H5662	H413	H256	H559
אוֹל יֵן	הַנָּחַל יִם	כָּל	וְאֶל	הַמַּיִם	מִמַּעֲיֵן י		
peradventure	and unto all brooks			of water	unto all fountains		
H194	H5158	H3605	H413	H4325	H4599		
נִכְרָ יֵת	וְלֹא	וְפָרָד	ס וס	וְנִחְיָה	חֶצֶר יֵר	נִמְצָא	
that we lose		and mules	the horses	alive	grass	we may find	
H3772	H3808	H6505	H5483	H2421	H2682	H4672	
מִהֶבְהֵמָה:							
not all the beasts							
H929							

Additional Cross-References

Joel 1:18 (Parallel theme): How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.