

1 Kings 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

Analysis

So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וַיִּחְלֶק ו	אֶת הָאָרֶץ	לְעָבְרָם	בְּהַ
So they divided	the land	between them to pass throughout	
H2505	H776	H5674	H0
אֶחָד ב	וָלָךְ	וְעַבְדָּהּ	הָלַךְ
it Ahab	went	by himself and Obadiah	went
H256	H1980	H5662	H1980
וָלָךְ	אֶת ד	לְבָדָהּ	
way	another		
H1870	H259		