

1 Kings 18:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?

Analysis

And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| לְקִרְאָתוֹ | אֵלֶיָּהוּ: | וְהִנֵּה ה | בְּדֶרֶךְ | עֹבַדְיָה הוּא | וַיְהִי י |
| H7125 | H452 | H2009 | H1870 | H5662 | H1961 |
| met | Elijah | | was in the way | And as Obadiah | |
| | | | | | |
| וְהָאֵת ה | וַיֹּאמֶר | פָּנֵי יו | עַל | וַיִּפֹּל ל | וַיֵּדָע הוּא |
| H2088 | H859 | H6440 | H5921 | H5307 | H5234 |
| | and said | on his face | | him and fell | him and he knew |
| | | | | | |
| | אֵלֶיָּהוּ: | אַתָּה י | | | |
| | H452 | H113 | | | |
| | Elijah | Art thou that my lord | | | |