

1 Kings 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?

Analysis

And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?

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

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵת	בְּ יָד	עָזָב	אֶת	לְמִתְּנִי	אֶחָד	בְּ	אֶת	נָתַן
And he said	H4100	What have I sinned	H3588					that thou wouldest deliver	H5414
H559		H2398		H859				H5414	

אֶת	מִתְּנָה	בְּ	יָד	עָזָב	אֶת	מִתְּנָה	לְמִתְּנִי
H853	thy servant		into the hand		of Ahab		to slay
H5650			H3027		H256		H4191

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