

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	מָה	חָטָאתִי	כִּי	אֶתְּהַבְתָּ	נִתְּן
And he said	H4100	What have I sinned	H3588	H859	that thou wouldst deliver
H559		H2398			H5414
אֶת	עַבְדְּךָ	בְּיַד	אַחָז ב	לְהַמִּיתָנִי:	
H853	thy servant	into the hand	of Ahab	to slay	
	H5650	H3027	H256	H4191	

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