

1 Kings 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

Analysis

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Elijah flees to Horeb, 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

וַיֹּד	אֶחָאָב	לְאִיזָ בַל	אֵת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	אֵלֵי הוּא
told	And Ahab	Jezebel				had done	all that Elijah
H5046	H256	H348	H853	H3605	H834	H6213	H452
וְאֵת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	הָרַג		אֶת	כָּל	הַנְּבִיאִים
H853	H3605	H834	and withal how he had slain		H853	H3605	all the prophets
			H2026				H5030
בְּחֶרֶב:							
with the sword							
H2719							

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:40 (Prophecy): And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

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