

1 Kings 19:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Analysis

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

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 sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18). God's covenant faithfulness remains steadfast despite human unfaithfulness, ultimately fulfilled in the new covenant through Christ.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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	קִנֵּי אֹתִי	קִנֵּי אֹתִי	לַיהוָה הוּא	אֱלֹהֵי י	צָבָא וְת
And he said	I have been very	I have been very	for the LORD	God	of hosts
H559	H7065	H7065	H3068	H430	H6635
כִּי	עָזַב ו	בְּרִיתְךָ	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	מִזְבְּחֹתַי יְכָ
H3588	have forsaken	thy covenant	for the children	of Israel	thine altars
	H5800	H1285	H1121	H3478	H4196
הֵכָה סו	וְאֵת	נְבִיאֵי יְכָ	הָרַג ו	בְּחֶרֶב	וְאֲנִי ר
thrown down		thy prophets	and slain	with the sword	and I even I only am left
H2040	H853	H5030	H2026	H2719	H3498
אֲנִי	לִבְדֹּי י	וַיִּבְקֹשׁ ו	אֶת	נַפְשִׁי י	לְקַחְתָּהּ:
H589	H905	and they seek	H853	my life	to take it away
		H1245		H5315	H3947

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:4 (Prophecy): For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

Exodus 34:14 (References God): For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Exodus 20:5 (References God): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

1 Kings 18:22 (Prophecy): Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

1 Kings 18:30 (Sacrifice): And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

Numbers 25:13 (Covenant): And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Numbers 25:11 (References Israel): Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

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