

1 Kings 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

Analysis

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

פָּנָיו וְלֹט אֶלְהָה כִּשְׁמָע וַיַּחֲדַד
his face it that he wrapped God And it was so when Elijah heard

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וְלֹט אֶלְהָה תְּצִימָם פֶּתַח הַמִּשְׁבֵּךְ וְלֹט
it that he wrapped God and stood in the entering in of the cave in his mantle and went out

H6440 H3874 H452 H6607 H2009 H155 H3318 H5975

פֶּתַח לְבָבָךְ מָה וְאָמַר וְאָמַר וְאָמַר
the entering in for what unto him and said unto him and said unto him and said

H6311 H0 H4100 H559 H6963 H413

אֶלְהָה

And it was so when Elijah
H452

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 19:9 (Parallel theme): And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

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