

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

וַיְהִי יוֹ H1961	שָׁמָעַ heard H8085	וַיְהִי כֵן H452	וַיִּלְט it that he wrapped H3874	פָּנָיו his face H6440		
בְּאַדְרָתוֹ in his mantle H155	וַיֵּצֵא and went out H3318	וַיַּעַמֵּד and stood H5975	פֶּתַח in the entering in H6607	הַמְעָבָה of the cave H4631	וַיֵּהָיֶה H2009	
אֵלָיו H413	And behold there came a voice H6963	קוֹל unto him and said H559	וַיֹּאמֶר unto him and said H559	מֶה H4100	לָבָד H0	פֶּה What doest thou here, Elijah? H6311
וַיְהִי כֵן H452						
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?
