

1 Kings 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because 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: because 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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 וְתֵּ

And he said I have been very I have been very for the LORD God of hosts

H559 H7065 H7065 H3068 H430 H6635

כִּי עָזְבוּ וְ בְרִיתְךָ בְּנֵי י וְשָׂרָא ל אֶת

H3588 **have forsaken thy covenant because the children of Israel** H853

H5800 H1285 H1121 H3478

בְּחֶרֶב קָרַג וְ נְבִיאֶיךָ וְאֶת הָרָסוּ מִזְבְּחֹתֶיךָ

thine altars thrown down thy prophets and slain with the sword

H4196 H2040 H853 H5030 H2026 H2719

וְאֶתְּ אֲנִי לְבַדִּי וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ אֶת נַפְשִׁי

and I even I only am left and they seek my life

H3498 H589 H905 H1245 H853 H5315

לְקַחְתָּהּ:

to take it away

H3947