

1 Kings 19:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

Analysis

And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

עַל	לְמֶלֶךְ	לְךָ	תִּמְשָׁח	ח	נִמְשִׁי	י	בֶן	יְהוָה	וְאֵת
H5921	to be king		shalt thou anoint		of Nimshi		the son	And Jehu	H853
		H4428		H4886	H5250		H1121	H3058	
מְחֹלָה	ה	מֵאֲבִי	ל	שָׁפַט	בֶּן	אֵלִישָׁה	ע	וְאֵת	יִשְׂרָאֵל
		H0		of Shaphat	the son	and Elisha		H853	over Israel
		H65		H8202	H1121	H477			H3478
תִּתְּנִי:	לְנָבִיא	יָא	תִּמְשָׁח	ח					
H8478	to be prophet		shalt thou anoint						
		H5030		H4886					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 2:15 (Prophecy): And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

2 Kings 2:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

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