

1 Kings 19:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

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 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

וְהָיָה ה	וְהָנִמְלָךְ ט	מִן הַרֶבֶץ	לְחִזְאֵל
H1961	And it shall come to pass that him that escapeth	from the sword	of Hazael
	H4422	H2719	H2371

יָמֵי יְהוֹשָׁפָט	וְהָנִמְלָךְ ט	מִן הַרֶבֶץ
slay	And it shall come to pass that him that escapeth	from the sword
H4191	H4422	H2719

וְהָיָה יְהוֹשָׁפָט	יָמֵי יְהוֹשָׁפָט	אֶלְיָשָׁע:
of Jehu	slay	shall Elisha
H3058	H4191	H477

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 8:12 (Word): And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.

2 Kings 13:22 (Parallel theme): But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

2 Kings 13:3 (Parallel theme): And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

Hosea 6:5 (Word): Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

2 Kings 10:32 (Parallel theme): In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;