

1 Kings 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

Analysis

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיַּרְא		וְקָם	וְלֹךְ	אֶל	נֶפֶשׁ	וְ	רִבְבָּא	בְּאַרְבָּא
And when he saw	that he arose		H1980	H413	for his life	and came		H0
H7200	H6965				H5315	H935		

שָׁם:	בָּעֵר	וְ	אַתָּה	וְ	חַדְשָׁה	לִיהוֹדָה	רֵשֶׁת	אֲשֶׁר	בְּעֵד
to Beersheba		which belongeth to Judah		and left		H3063	H853	his servant	H8033
H884	H834						H3240	H5288	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 21:31 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he called that place Beer-sheba; because there they sware both of them.

Matthew 26:56 (Parallel theme): But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

