

1 Kings 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

Analysis

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיִּשָּׁכַב	וַיֵּשֶׁב	תַּחַת	רֶתֶם	אֶת־	וְהָיָה	זֶה
And as he lay	and slept	H8478	juniper tree	under a	H2009	H2088
H7901	H3462		H7574	H259		
מַלְאָךְ	נִגַּעַ	בּוֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	לּוֹ	קוּם	אֲכֹל:
behold then an angel	touched	H0	him and said	H0	unto him Arise	and eat
H4397	H5060		H559		H6965	H398

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

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