

1 Kings 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

Analysis

And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַיִּקָּם	וַיֹּאכַל	וַיִּשְׁתֶּה	וַיִּלֶךְ	בְּכֹחוֹ	הָאֲכִילָהּ
And he arose	and did eat	and drink	H1980	in the strength	of that meat
H6965	H398	H8354		H3581	H396
יְהוָה יֵא	יַאֲרִבֶּעַ יָמִים	יּוֹם	יַאֲרִבֶּעַ יָמִים	לַיְלָה	עַד רֶהֱ
H1931	and forty	days	and forty	nights	H5704 the mount
	H705	H3117	H705	H3915	H2022
הָאֵלֹהִים יֵא	חֲרֹב:				
of God	unto Horeb				
H430	H2722				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:28 (Parallel theme): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Exodus 3:1 (References God): Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

Exodus 24:18 (Parallel theme): And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 4:2 (Parallel theme): And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Deuteronomy 9:18 (Parallel theme): And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Mark 1:13 (Parallel theme): And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 4:2 (Parallel theme): Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.