

1 Kings 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.

Analysis

And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Ahab's wars with Syria, 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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics 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

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| וְאָמַר | בָּהּ | וְאָמַר | וְאָמַר | וְאָמַר |
| And he answered | And Ahab | H4310 | And he answered | H3541 |
| H559 | H256 | | H559 | H559 |
| יְהִי הָ | בְּנֵר | שֶׁר | בְּמִדְיָן וְתַ | וְאָמַר |
| the LORD | Even by the young men | of the princes | of the provinces | And he answered |
| H3068 | H5288 | H8269 | H4082 | H559 |
| מִ | רִאשָׁן | הַמְלָחָם הָ | וְאָמַר | אַתָּה: |
| Who shall order | the battle | And he answered | | H859 |
| H4310 | H4421 | H559 | | |

