

1 Kings 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.

Analysis

Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

אַת	נָעָרִי	שָׁרֵן	וְתִּקְרָבְנָה	פְּקָדְךָ	יְהִי 1
Then he numbered	the young men	of the princes	of the provinces		H1961
H6485	H5288	H8269	H4082		
מֵאַת יָמִים	שְׁנָה יָמִים	וּשְׁלַשׁ יָמִים	וְאַסְרִירָה מ	פְּקָדְךָ	אַת
hundred	and they were two	and thirty	and after	Then he numbered	H853
H3967	H8147	H7970	H310	H6485	
כָּל בָּנָם	בָּנָה	לִשְׁבָּא	תְּשִׁבְעָה	אלפִים:	
all the people	even all the children	of Israel	being seven	thousand	
H3605	H3605	H1121	H3478	H7651	H505
H5971					

