

1 Kings 20:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they went out at noon. But Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.

Analysis

And they went out at noon. But Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיֵּצְאוּ	בַצֶּהֶר יָמִים	וּבֶן	הַיָּד	שֶׁתְּ הַ	שָׁכַר וְ
And they went out	at noon	H0	But Benhadad	was drinking	himself drunk
H3318	H6672		H1130	H8354	H7910
בְּסֹכֹת	הָ וְ	מֶלֶךְ	שְׁלֹשִׁים	וּשְׁנַיִם יָמִים	מֶלֶךְ
in the pavilions	H1931	he and the kings	the thirty	and two	he and the kings
H5521		H4428	H7970	H8147	H4428
עָזַר	אֹתוֹ:				
that helped	H853				
H5826					