

1 Kings 20:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day.

Analysis

And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

וַיִּהְיוּ יָמֵי שָׁבַע תַּיִם אֶלֶּה נֶכַח אֶלֶּה וַיִּחַן ו
And they pitched **one** **over against** **one** **seven** **day** H1961
H2583 H428 H5227 H428 H7651 H3117

וַיִּבְרַח הַמֶּלֶכֶת הַיָּמִי וַתִּקְרַב הַשְּׁבִיעִי יָמֵי שָׁבַע וַיִּבְרַח
day **And so it was that in the seventh** **was joined** **the battle** **slew**
H3117 H7637 H7126 H4421 H5221

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת אֲנָשֵׁי מִמָּאָה אָלֶּף וְאָלֶּף רֶגֶל
and the children **of Israel** H853 **of the Syrians** **an hundred** **thousand** **footmen**
H1121 H3478 H758 H3967 H505 H7273

אֶחָד: יָמֵי שָׁבַע וַיִּבְרַח
day **in one**
H3117 H259