

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

וַיַּקְרֹב אֶלָּה And they pitched	בַּיּוֹם day	בַּיּוֹם day	בַּיּוֹם day	בַּיּוֹם day	בַּיּוֹם day
H2583	H428	H5227	H428	H7651	H3117
בַּיּוֹם day	וְאֵת שְׁבִיעֵי And so it was that in the seventh	וְאֵת שְׁבִיעֵי And so it was that in the seventh	וְאֵת שְׁבִיעֵי And so it was that in the seventh	וְאֵת שְׁבִיעֵי And so it was that in the seventh	וְאֵת שְׁבִיעֵי And so it was that in the seventh
H3117	H7637	H7637	H7126	H4421	H5221
בְּנֵי and the children	בְּנֵי of Israel	בְּנֵי of Israel	בְּנֵי of the Syrians	בְּנֵי an hundred	בְּנֵי thousand
H1121	H3478	H853	H758	H3967	H505
בְּנֵי day	בְּנֵי in one				
H3117	H259	H259	H259	H259	H259

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