

1 Kings 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.

Analysis

Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

כֶּסֶף	וְזָהָב	לִי	הָ	וְאִשְׁתִּי	וְבָנֵי
Thy silver	and thy gold	H0	H1931	is mine thy wives	also and thy children
H3701	H2091			H802	H1121
הַטּוֹבִים	לִי	הֵם:			
even the goodliest	H0	H1992			
H2896					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:9 (Parallel theme): The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

