

1 Kings 20:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

Analysis

But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

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 2:1 – Judging others

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

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

בְּחִזְמָה	הַמִּתְפָּל	בְּעֵיר	אֶל	בְּאַפְקָה	בְּגַוְתָּרִים	בְּלָס
fled	But the rest	to Aphek	H413	into the city	fell	and there a wall
H5127	H3498	H663		H5892	H5307	H2346

בְּחִדְרָה:	בְּחִדְרָה:	בְּחִדְרָה:	בְּחִדְרָה:	בְּחִדְרָה:	בְּחִדְרָה:
fled	and came	H413	into the city	chamber	chamber
H5127	H935		H5892	H2315	H2315

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:25 (Parallel theme): And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

2 Chronicles 18:24 (Parallel theme): And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

1 Kings 20:26 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Ben-hadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel.