

1 Kings 20:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the men did diligently observe whether any thing would come from him, and did hastily catch it: and they said, Thy brother Ben-hadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Ben-hadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot.

Analysis

Now the men did diligently observe whether any thing would come from him, and did hastily catch it: and they said, Thy brother Ben-hadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Ben-hadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיַּחֲשֵׁךְ וְיָרַא אָנָשִׁים

H376

did diligently observe

H5172

וַיַּמְבֹרֶךְ

whether any thing would come from him and did hastily

H4116

בְּמֹתֵר כִּי תִּחְלֹט

catch

H4480

וְיִבְרֹא הַזְּבֹב הַזָּבָד בְּאָזְבָּד וְאָמַר

Then he said

Thy brother

H0

Benhadad

Then he said

Go

ye bring

H559

H251

H1130

H559

H935

H3947

וְיִצְלֹא אֶלְיוֹן בְּנֵי אֶלְיוֹן

came forth

H413

H0

Benhadad

to him and he caused him to come up

על

וַיַּצְלֹא

H5921

H1130

H5927

בְּמִרְכָּבָה

into the chariot

H4818

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