

1 Kings 20:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.

Analysis

Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.

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

1 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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹ	עַן	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	שָׁמַעְתָּ
Then said	H0	H3282	H834	H3808	he unto him Because thou hast not obeyed
H559					H8085

בֶּקֶן	וּל	יְהוָה	הִנֵּה	וַיֵּלֶךְ	מֵאַתָּה
the voice		of the LORD	H2005	behold as soon as thou art departed	H853
H6963		H3068		H1980	

וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ	הַלֵּוֹיִת	וַיֵּלֶךְ	מֵאַחַד
him and slew	a lion	behold as soon as thou art departed	from him
H5221	H738	H1980	H681

וַיִּמְצָא הוּ	הַלֵּוֹיִת	וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ
found	a lion	him and slew
H4672	H738	H5221