

1 Kings 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

Analysis

And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

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 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

אָדָן	וְ	קְדָבָרְךָ	נִזְעָמָן	וְ	אָמַר	יִשְׂרָאֵל	הַמִּלְחָמָה	לְהַעֲלֵמָה	וְ	עָמָד
My lord		according to thy saying	and said	of Israel	and	the king	the	answered		

לְבָבְךָ	וְכָל	אָנָּבָה	אֲשֶׁר	לִבְנֵי
My lord	and	the king	the	the

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org