

1 Kings 20:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Ben-hadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;

Analysis

And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Ben-hadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

בָּרוּךְ בָּנָי	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
came again	And the messengers	Thus speaketh	Thus speaketh	Thus speaketh	Thus speaketh
H7725	H4397	H559	H3541	H559	H0
Benhadad	Thus speaketh	Although I have sent	Although I have sent	Thus speaketh	Thus speaketh
H1130	H559	H3588	H7971	H413	H559
me thy silver	and thy gold	and thy wives	and thy children	Thou shalt deliver	Thou shalt deliver
H3701	H2091	H802	H1121	H0	H5414

