

1 Kings 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.

Analysis

Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְאָמַר	בְּאַז	לְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מֶלֶךְ	וְאִקְרַב	אֵלֶיךָ
and said	of the land	all the elders	of Israel	Then the king	called	
H559	H776	H2205	H3478	H4428	H7121	
מִשְׁבְּצָעֵד	בְּעֵבֶד	כִּי	וְרָא	וְאֵדָעָה	דָּעָה	מִשְׁבְּצָעֵד
how this man seeketh	mischief	the	see	I pray you and see	Mark	
H3588	H2088	H7451	H3588	H7200	H4994	
וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת
and for my silver	and for my children	and for my wives	unto me for my wives	for he sent		
H3701	H1121	H802	H413	H7971		
וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת	וְלֹכֶדֶת
and I denied	and for my gold	and for my gold	and for my gold			
H4480	H4513	H3808	H2091			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 5:7 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

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