

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

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|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| וַיֹּאמֶר | הָאָרֶץ | זִקְנֵי י | לְכָל | יִשְׂרָאֵל | מֶלֶךְ | וַיִּקְרָא |
| and said | of the land | all the elders | H3605 | of Israel | Then the king | called |
| H559 | H776 | H2205 | | H3478 | H4428 | H7121 |
| כִּי | מִבֵּקֶשׁ | זֶה | רָעָה | כִּי | וְרָא ו | נָא א |
| H3588 | how this man seeketh | H2088 | mischief | H3588 | I pray you and see | Mark |
| | H1245 | | H7451 | | H7200 | H3045 |
| וְלִכְסָפִי | וְלִבְנֵי | לְנָשִׁי | אֵלַי | שָׁלַח | | |
| and for my silver | and for my children | unto me for my wives | H413 | for he sent | | |
| H3701 | H1121 | H802 | | H7971 | | |
| מִמֶּנּוּ: | מִן עָתִי | וְלֵא | וְלִזְהָבִי | | | |
| H4480 | and I denied | H3808 | and for my gold | | | |
| | H4513 | | 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.