

1 Kings 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

Analysis

And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Naboth's vineyard, 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיָּבֹאוּ	שְׁנֵי י	הָאֲנָשִׁים	בְּנֵי	הַבְּלִי עַל	וַיָּשֶׁב ו	נָגְדוֹ
And there came	in two	H376	children	of Belial	and sat	H5048
H935	H8147		H1121	H1100	H3427	
וַיַּעֲדֵהוּ	אֲנָשִׁי י	הַבְּלִי עַל	אֶת	נָב וְ	נָגַד	
witnessed	H376	of Belial	H853	Naboth	H5048	
H5749		H1100		H5022		
הָעָם	יֹאמַר	יְבַרַךְ	נָב וְ	אֱלֹהֵי יִם		
in the presence of the people	saying	did blaspheme	Naboth	God		
H5971	H559	H1288	H5022	H430		
וְלֶלֶךְ	וַיֵּצֵא הוּא	מִח וְ	לְעִיר	וַיִּסְקֶל הוּא		
and the king	Then they carried him forth	out	of the city	and stoned		
H4428	H3318	H2351	H5892	H5619		
בָּאֲבָנֵי יִם	וַיָּמָת:					
him with stones	that he died					
H68	H4191					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:26 (Parallel theme): Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the LORD.