

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

וְיָדָו	נִשְׁבָּה וְ	הַבְּלִי עַל	בְּתִי	הָאָנָשׁ יִם	שָׁנָה	וְיָבָאָו
And there came	in two	H376	children	of Belial	and sat	H5048
H935	H8147		H1121	H1100	H3427	
בְּגַד נִבְ וְתַ אַת הַבְּלִי עַל אָנָשׁ וְיַעֲזָהוּ						
witnessed	of Belial	H853	Naboth	H5048		
H5749	H1100		H5022			
אֱלֹהִים נִבְ וְתַ בְּבִרְ קָשָׁם						
in the presence of the people	saying	H559	did blaspheme	Naboth	God	
H5971			H1288	H5022	H430	
וְיָקָל הֵו לְעִיר מִחְ וִזְ						
and the king	Then they carried him forth	H3318	out	of the city	and stoned	
H4428			H2351	H5892	H5619	
בְּאֶבֶן יִמְתַּ						
him with stones	that he died	H4191				
H68						

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.