

1 Kings 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיִּהְיֶה י'	כָּשָׁמַע ע'	אָחָא ב	כִּי י'	מָת	נָב וְת
H1961	heard	And it came to pass when Ahab	H3588	was dead	of Naboth
	H8085	H256		H4191	H5022
וַיִּקָּם	אָחָא ב	לָרֶדֶת	אֶל	כֶּרֶם	נָב וְת
rose up	And it came to pass when Ahab	to go down	H413	to the vineyard	of Naboth
H6965	H256	H3381		H3754	H5022
הַיִּזְרְעֵלִי י'	לְרִשְׁתּוֹ:				
the Jezreelite	to take possession				
H3158	H3423				