

1 Kings 21:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

Analysis

Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֶלֶךְ אֶחָד בְּלִקְבָּרָה אֶת־יְהוָה
Arise **go down** **to meet** **Ahab** **king** **of Israel** **H834**
H6965 H3381 H7125 H256 H4428 H3478

וְשִׁמְרֵה בְּשָׂמָר וְנַבְּוֹת אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה בְּכָרְמֵל בְּכָרְמֵל הַגָּתָן
which is in Samaria **H2009** **behold he is in the vineyard** **H3754** **of Naboth** **H5022** **go down**
H8111 H3381

לְרַשְׁתָּתוֹן שׁ מְ
to possess **H3423**