

1 Kings 21:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

Analysis

And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Naboth's vineyard, within the book's focus on prophetic ministry of Elijah confronting Baalism. The temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אַתָּה יְדַבֵּר	לֵאמֹר	בְּנֵב וְתַנְתֵּן	לֵאמֹר וְאַתָּה תְּנַתֵּן	לְאַתָּה תְּנַתֵּן	לְאַתָּה תְּנַתֵּן	לְאַתָּה תְּנַתֵּן
spake	And Ahab	H413	unto Naboth	saying	Give	H0
H1696	H256		H5022	H559	H5414	H853
בְּךָ רִמְמָה	לְכָה	לְגַן	לְגַן	לְכָה	לְכָה	ה וְאַתָּה
me thy vineyard	that I may have it for a garden	H1961	H0	of herbs	H3588	H1931
H3754	H1588			H3419		
כִּי רִמְמָה	לְכָה	מְפַקֵּת יְהוָה	לְכָה	מְפַקֵּת יְהוָה	לְכָה	בְּךָ רִמְמָה
because it is near	unto	my house	Give	H0	H8478	me thy vineyard
H7138	H681	H1004	H5414			H3754
וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב	וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב	וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב	וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב	וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב	וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב	וְתַבְנֵה בְּנֵב
than it or if it seem good	H4480	H518	than it or if it seem good	H2896		to thee
H2896						H5869
לְכָה אַתָּה תְּנַתֵּן	מְמַנְתֵּר יְהוָה	מְמַנְתֵּר יְהוָה	מְמַנְתֵּר יְהוָה	מְמַנְתֵּר יְהוָה	מְמַנְתֵּר יְהוָה	בְּעֵינֶיךָ
Give	H0	of it in money	thee the worth	H2088		
H5414		H3701	H4242			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 8:14 (Parallel theme): And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

1 Timothy 6:9 (Parallel theme): But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.