

1 Kings 21:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

Analysis

And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וְגַם	אֵין בָּל	דָּבָר	יְהוָה	לֵאמֹר	הַכְּלָבִים	וְיֹאכְלוּ
H1571	And of Jezebel	also spake	the LORD	saying	The dogs	shall eat
	H348	H1696	H3068	H559	H3611	H398
אֶת	אֵין בָּל	בְּחֵל	יִזְרְעֵאל:			
H853	And of Jezebel	by the wall	of Jezreel			
	H348	H2426	H3157			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:10 (Parallel theme): And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled.

