

1 Kings 21:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

Analysis

But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

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

Psalms 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

קָ	לֹא	הָיָה	כְּאֶחָב	אֲשֶׁר	הִתְמַכָּר	
H7535	H3808	H1961	But there was none like unto Ahab	H834	which did sell	
			H256		H4376	
לָעֹשׂ	זֶה	עָ	בְּעֵינֵי	יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	הִסְתִּיר
himself to work	wickedness	in the sight	of the LORD	H834	stirred up	H853
H6213	H7451	H5869	H3068		H5496	
אֵין	בָּל	אִשְׁתּוֹ				
whom Jezebel	his wife					
H348	H802					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 21:20 (Evil): And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.

Proverbs 22:14 (References Lord): The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

Ecclesiastes 7:26 (Parallel theme): And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Acts 14:2 (Evil): But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

Romans 6:19 (Parallel theme): I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

1 Kings 21:7 (Parallel theme): And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.