

1 Kings 21:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

Analysis

And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וַיִּתֵּעַ בַּ	מֵאֵד	לִלְכָת	אֲחֵרִי	הַגִּלְלִים	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר
abominably	And he did very	H1980	H310	idols	H3605	H834
H8581	H3966			H1544		
עֲשֵׂה	הָאֲמֹרִי	אֲשֶׁר	הוֹךְ יֵשׁ	יְהוָה		
according to all things as did	the Amorites	H834	cast out	whom the LORD		
H6213	H567		H3423	H3068		
מִפְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:				
before	the children	of Israel				
H6440	H1121	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 21:11 (Parallel theme): Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

Genesis 15:16 (Parallel theme): But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

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