

1 Kings 21:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

Analysis

Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

סֵעֵסֵת	כִּי	נִכְבֵּל ע	אַחָא ב	מִפְנֵי י	אֲנִי עֵן	כִּי
Seest	H3588	he humbleth	thou how Ahab	himself before	me because	H3588
H7200		H3665	H256	H6440	H3282	
נִכְבֵּל ע	מִפְנֵי י	לֹא	אֲבִי יֹא	הָרָעָה	בַּיּוֹם י	בַּיּוֹם י
he humbleth	himself before	H3808	me I will not bring	the evil	days	days
H3665	H6440		H935	H7451	H3117	H3117
בְּנֵי ו	אֲבִי יֹא	הָרָעָה	עַל	בֵּיתוֹ:		
but in his son's	me I will not bring	the evil	H5921	upon his house		
H1121	H935	H7451		H1004		

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:9 (Parallel theme): The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Micah 7:18 (Parallel theme): Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Psalms 86:15 (Parallel theme): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalms 18:44 (Parallel theme): As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

2 Kings 10:11 (Parallel theme): So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

Romans 2:4 (Parallel theme): Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Psalms 66:3 (Parallel theme): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Jeremiah 7:17 (Parallel theme): Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Exodus 10:3 (Parallel theme): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.