

1 Kings 21:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

Analysis

And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

מִיָּהוָה	ה	לִי	חָלַל יֵלֶה	אֶחָזָב ב	אֶל	נָב וְת	וַיֹּאמֶר
		H0	H2486	H256	H413	H5022	H559
	The LORD		forbid	to Ahab		And Naboth	said
לִּי	:	אֲבֹתַי	נַחֲלִיתִי	אֶת	מְתָתִי		
	H0	H1	H5159	H853	H5414		
		of my fathers	the inheritance		it me that I should give		

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 25:23 (Parallel theme): The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

Numbers 36:7 (Parallel theme): So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

Ezekiel 46:18 (Parallel theme): Moreover the prince shall not take of the people's inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession.

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