

1 Kings 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

Analysis

And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

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

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

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|---------|-----|
| עַל | וַיֵּשֶׁב | בֵּית | אֶל | אֶחָד | בְּ | יִבָּא | רָסֶס | וְזַעַם | עַל |
| came | And Ahab | H413 | into his house | heavy | and displeased | H5921 | | | |
| H935 | H256 | | H1004 | H5620 | H2198 | | | | |
| פִּזְבָּר | אֲשֶׁר | דָּבָר | אֶל | וְ | נָבֹות | הָזְרִיעָלִי | | | |
| because of the word | H834 | had spoken | H413 | which Naboth | the Jezreelite | H3158 | | | |
| H1697 | | H1696 | | H5022 | | | | | |
| לֹא | אַתְּ | לֹבֶשׁ | לֹבֶשׁ | אַתְּ | תָּמִלְתָּה | | | | |
| to him for he had said | H3808 | I will not give | H0 | H853 | thee the inheritance | H5159 | | | |
| H559 | | H5414 | | | | | | | |
| אָבוֹתִים | וְשָׁכַב | עַל | מִטָּה | וְ | וְ | אַתְּ | | | |
| of my fathers | And he laid him down | H5921 | upon his bed | and turned away | H853 | | | | |
| H1 | H7901 | | H4296 | H5437 | | | | | |
| לִפְנֵי | אֶכֶל | לֹא | לֹא | | | | | | |
| his face | H3808 | and would eat | H398 | H3899 | | | | | |
| H6440 | | | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 20:43 (Parallel theme): And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.

James 1:14 (Parallel theme): But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.