

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

וַיָּבֹא	אֶחָאָ ב	אֶל	בֵּית ו	ס ר	וַיֵּזַע ר	עַל
came	And Ahab	H413	into his house	heavy	and displeased	H5921
H935	H256		H1004	H5620	H2198	
הַדְּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	דִּבֶּר ר	אֵל יו	נָבוֹת	הַיִּזְרְעֵאלִי	
because of the word	H834	had spoken	H413	which Naboth	the Jezreelite	
H1697		H1696		H5022	H3158	
וְיֵי אָמָר	לֹא	אֶתְּ	לִבְּ	אֶת	נָחַל ת	
to him for he had said	H3808	I will not give	H0	H853	thee the inheritance	
H559		H5414			H5159	
אֲבוֹתַי	וַיִּשְׁכַּב	עַל	מִטָּת ו	וַיִּטּ ב	אֶת	
of my fathers	And he laid him down	H5921	upon his bed	and turned away	H853	
H1	H7901		H4296	H5437		
פָּנָיו	וְלֹא	אֶכֶל	לֶחֶם:			
his face	H3808	and would eat	no bread			
H6440		H398	H3899			

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.