

1 Kings 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

Analysis

But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest 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 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

וְיָתַב	אֵל	אֵל	אֵל	אֵל	אֵל	אֵל	מָה
came	H413	But Jezebel	his wife	to him and said		H413	H4100
H935		H348	H802	H1696			H2088
רָזֶב	ה	סָכַר	יָאִתֶּב	לֹא	אֲכַל	לְחַם	
unto him	Why is thy spirit	so sad	H369	that thou eatest	no bread		
H7307		H5620		H398		H3899	

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