

1 Kings 22:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

Analysis

And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Ahab's death and Jehoshaphat's alliance, 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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

מִשְׁבִּיעַ	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶלָּיו	הַמֶּלֶךְ	עַד	כַּמָּה	פְּעֻמִּים	אָנִי	מִשְׁבִּיעַ
And said	to him	the king	How many	times	times	shall I	make you swear	
H559	H413	H4428	H5704	H4100	H6471	H589		H7650

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