

1 Kings 22:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

Analysis

And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיָּהִי	בָּשָׁנָה	הַשְׁלֹשִׁית	וַיֵּרֶא	יְהוָשָׁפָט	מֶלֶךְ
And it came to pass	in the year	third	came down	Jehoshaphat	king
H1961	H8141	H7992	H3381	H3092	H4428

יְהוָדָה	אֶל	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל
of Judah	to	the king	of Israel

| H3063 | H413 | H4428 | H3478 | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:24 (Kingdom): And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

1 Kings 22:1 (References Israel): And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.

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