

1 Kings 22:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

Analysis

And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

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

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

ישָׁאָל	מֶלֶךְ	אֶת	לְתָמֹן	בְּקָשָׁת	מִשְׁנָה	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ
of Israel	the king	-	and struck	at random	a bow	drew	And a man
H3478	H4428	H853	H5221	H8537	H7198	H4900	H376

בֵּין	פְּצַדְכָּלִים	וּבֵין	בְּשִׁרְתִּינוּ
between	the joints	and	the armor
H996	H1694	H996	H8302

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 35:23 (Kingdom): And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

Revelation 9:9 (Parallel theme): And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

Micah 6:13 (Kingdom): Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

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