

1 Kings 22:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

Analysis

And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וַיַּעֲבֹר	בְּרִכָּה	בְּמִחְנָה	כִּבְאָ	בְּשִׁמְשׁ
And went	a proclamation	throughout the army	about	the going down of the sun
H5674	H7440	H4264	H935	H8121

לִאמְרָ	אִישׁ	אֶל	עִירֹ	אִישׁ	אֶל	אֶרְצֹ
saying	every man	to	his city	and every man	to	his own country
H559	H376	H413	H5892	H376	H413	H776

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 14:12 (Parallel theme): And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents.

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