

1 Kings 22:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

Analysis

And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וִיהוֹשָׁפָט	בֶּן	אָסָא	מֶלֶךְ	עַל	יְהוּדָה	בְּשָׁנָת	אַרְבַּע
And Jehoshaphat	son	of Asa	became king	over	Judah	in the year	fourth
H3092	H1121	H609	H4427	H5921	H3063	H8141	H702
לְאַחָב	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל					
of Ahab	king	of Israel					
H256	H4428	H3478					

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 20:31 (Kingdom): And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: he was thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

