

1 Kings 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

Analysis

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

אַתָּה	כִּיּוֹם	נָא	דָּבֵשׂ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מֶלֶךְ	אֶל	יְהוָשָׁפָט	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר
And said	Jehoshaphat	to	the king	of Israel	Inquire	I pray	today	-		
H559	H3092	H413	H4428	H3478	H1875	H4994	H3117	H853		
דָּבֵר	יְהוָה									
at the word	of the LORD									
H1697	H3068									

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 3:11 (Kingdom): But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's

servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

Jeremiah 21:2 (Kingdom): Enquire, I pray thee, of the LORD for us; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that the LORD will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, that he may go up from us.

Numbers 27:21 (Word): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

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