

1 Kings 22:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

Analysis

For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

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. Canaanite fertility

religion promised agricultural prosperity through ritual practices honoring Baal (storm god) and Asherah (mother goddess), posing constant temptation to syncretism. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

אָתֶךָ	וַיַּעֲבֹד	בָּאָלָה	וְבָעֵל	אֶת-	וַיְשַׁפְּתָחָה	לֹז	וַיְכַעַס	אֶת-
For he served	-	Baal	and worshiped	him	and provoked to anger	-		
H5647	H853	H1168	H7812	H9999	H3707			H853

אָבִיו	עָשָׂה	אֲשֶׁר-	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֱלֹהִי	יְהֹוָה	the LORD	God
H3068	H430	H3478	H3605	H834	H6213	H1		