

HIEL (Heb. *hî'el*)

A man from Bethel who rebuilt Jericho during the time of Ahab (871-852 B.C.E.). While laying the foundations of the city wall, he lost Abiran, his first-born; while setting up the gates, he lost his youngest son, Segub (1 Kgs. 16:29-34). These deaths were understood as consequences of the curse that Joshua had placed upon anyone who would rebuild the city or its wall (Josh. 6:26). Earlier interpretations of the deaths as building sacrifices are no longer maintained. The note about Hiel may go back to court annals of the northern kingdom, but his story has become part of the negative records about Ahab.

Bibliography. C. Conroy, "Hiel between Ahab and Elijah-Elisha," *Bibl* 77 (1996): 210-18.

SIEGFRIED KREUZER