

1 Kings 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?

Analysis

Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's accession and Adonijah's rebellion, within the book's focus on succession narrative and establishment of Solomon's reign.

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. This passage describes events around 970 BCE during the transition

from David to Solomon.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of clear succession planning and communication in leadership transitions?
2. What does Solomon's consolidation of power reveal about the relationship between justice, mercy, and political necessity?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

בְּלֹא אֲלֹוי לְאַמְרָה תְּדַבֵּר בְּעֵת הַזֶּה
H3808 and say H413 O king H4428 David H1732 and say H413
H1980 and get thee in H935 H4428

נִשְׁבַּע עַתָּה בְּעֵת הַזֶּה
H7650 swear H4428 O king H4428
H859 unto him Didst not thou my lord H113

אַמְתָּה לְאַמְתָּה רַבְּנָה שְׁלָמָה
H310 after H4427 reign H1121 thy son H8010 Solomon H3588
unto thine handmaid H519 and say H559 Assuredly H4069
H1931 me and he shall sit H3427 H5921 upon my throne H3678

מֶלֶךְ וּמֶדֶשׁ
H4427 reign H4069
H138 why then doth Adonijah

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 1:30 (Kingdom): Even as I swear unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.

1 Kings 1:17 (Kingdom): And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.