

1 Kings 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Bath-sheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?

Analysis

And Bath-sheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?

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

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ | לְמֶלֶךְ | וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ | לְמֶלֶךְ | וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ | לְמֶלֶךְ |
| bowed | H0 | And Bathsheba | and did obeisance | And the king | said |
| H6915 | | H1339 | H7812 | H4428 | H559 |
| | | | | | |
| וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ | לְמֶלֶךְ | וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ | לְמֶלֶךְ | וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ | לְמֶלֶךְ |
| And the king | H4100 | H0 | | | |
| H4428 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 20:41 (Parallel theme): And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

1 Samuel 25:23 (Parallel theme): And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,

1 Samuel 24:8 (Kingdom): David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

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