

1 Kings 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

Analysis

Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְהָיָה בִּפְשָׁךְ H1961	שָׁנָה H7901	אֲדֹנָי H113	וְהָיָה לְךָ H4428	עַם H5973
shall sleep	Otherwise it shall come to pass when my lord		the king	
וְהָיָה בִּפְשָׁךְ H1	אֲדֹנָי H1961	וְהָיָה לְךָ H589	וְהָיָה לְךָ H1121	שְׁלֹמֹה H8010
with his fathers	that I and my son	Solomon		
וְהָיָה לְךָ H2400				
shall be counted offenders				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:16 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

1 Kings 2:10 (Parallel theme): So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

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