

# 1 Kings 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet.  
And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself  
before the king with his face to the ground.

## Analysis

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**And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.**

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 prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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

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1 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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיֹּאמְרוּ And they told H5046	לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ himself before the king H4428	לֵאמֹר saying H559	הִנֵּה ה' <sup>H2009</sup>	נָתַן   Behold Nathan H5416
הַנָּבִיִּא the prophet H5030	וַיָּבֹא And when he was come in H935	לְפָנֵי י' before H6440	לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ himself before the king H4428	וַיִּשָּׁתַח he bowed H7812
לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ himself before the king H4428	עַל H5921	אֶפְצֵי יוֹ with his face H639	אֶרְצָה: to the ground H776	

