

1 Kings 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

Analysis

For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְמִרְאָה שׂוֹר וְשָׂמְרִיא
H3588 For he is gone down H3381 this day H3117 and hath slain H2076 oxen H7794 and fat cattle H4806

בְּפָנָי לְבָנִים לְכָל תַּיִקְנָא וְצָאן
and sheep in abundance and hath called H3605 sons H1121 all the king's H4428

אָכְלִים וְהַבְּמִנְחָה וְלִשְׁבָּר וְלִשְׁבָּר
and the captains of the host and Abiathar the priest H2009 and behold they eat H398

אַדְנָהָה בְּפָנָי יְחִינָה וְיִאָמֶר וְלִפְנֵי יְהִי וְשַׁת יִם
and drink before him and say God save all the king's H4428 Adonijah H138

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:24 (Salvation): And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

1 Kings 1:9 (Kingdom): And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-rogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

1 Kings 1:19 (Kingdom): And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.