

1 Kings 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

Analysis

So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics 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

ישׁׁרָאֵל	גַּבְּרִיל	בְּכָל	יְפֵי	הַנְּעָרָה	יְיַבְּלָשׁוּ	וְיִשְׁרָאֵל
So they sought	damsel	for a fair	H3605	throughout all the coasts	of Israel	H3478
H1245	H5291	H3303		H1366		H4428

לְמַלְכָּה:	אֶת הָרָה	יָבְאָה	בְּשַׁוְּנָעָם	אֶת אַבִּישָׁג	וְנִמְצָא אֶת	וְיִתְּמַצֵּא	וְיִמְצָא
and found	H853	Abishag	a Shunammite	and brought	H935	H853	her to the king
H4672		H49	H7767				H4428

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 19:18 (Parallel theme): And their border was toward Jezreel, and Chesulloth, and Shunem,

1 Samuel 28:4 (References Israel): And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

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