

1 Kings 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Bath-sheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

Analysis

Then Bath-sheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַתִּשָּׁתְּחוּ	אֶרֶץ	אֶפְרַיִם	שֶׁבַע	בֵּת	וַתִּקֶּן דָּ
and did reverence	to the earth	with her face	Then Bathsheba	^{H0}	bowed
H7812	H776	H639	H1339		H6915
לְעֹלָם:	דָּוִד	הִמְלִךְ	אֲדֹנָיִ	יְהוָה	וַתֹּאמֶר הִמְלִךְ
for ever	David	king	Let my lord	live	and said
H5769	H1732	H4428	H113	H2421	H559
					H4428

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 2:4 (Kingdom): Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 3:9 (Kingdom): They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

Nehemiah 2:3 (Kingdom): And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

Daniel 6:21 (Kingdom): Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Daniel 6:6 (Kingdom): Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

Daniel 5:10 (Kingdom): Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: