

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

וַיַּעֲשֶׂת כַּזְבִּין אֶת בְּעֵבֶד בַּת יְהוָה
bowed H0 Then Bathsheba with her face to the earth and did reverence
H6915 H1339 H639 H776 H7812

לְעַלְמָם: זֶה דָּבָר לְגַן אֲדֹנֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶת אָמַר בְּפָנָיו
king and said live Let my lord king David for ever
H4428 H559 H2421 H113 H4428 H1732 H5769

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: