

1 Kings 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

Analysis

And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

סָכַנְתָּה	וְבָטַח	לְהִנְצַח	וְהִנְצַחַת	מִאָדָם	עַד	יְפֵי	הַ	וְבָנְעָרָה	הַ
And the damsel	fair	H5704	was very	H1961	the king			and cherished	
H5291	H3303		H3966		H4428			H5532	
לְאָדָם	וְהִנְצַחַת	הִנְצַחַת	הַ						
and ministered	the king	H3808	knew	H3045					
H8334	H4428								

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