

1 Kings 1:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.

Analysis

And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.

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

אָדָן יְנָא אָתְ לְבָרָךְ
And moreover the king's to bless

בְּפָתְ לְגַם
And moreover the king's

עֲבָדִ בְּאָוֶגֶם
servants

בְּאָוֶגֶם
came

אָדָן יְנָא אָתְ לְבָרָךְ
our lord

H1571 H935 H5650 H4428 H1288 H853 H113

מִשְׁתַּחַת בְּ אֶת אֱלֹהִים יְתַטְּבַּל לְאָמֵר בְּ
make the ~ better

לְאָמֵר בְּ
saying

בְּאָמֵר בְּ
David

מִשְׁתַּחַת בְּ אֶת אֱלֹהִים יְתַטְּבַּל לְאָמֵר בְּ
make the ~

And moreover the king's

H4428 H1732 H559 H3190 H430 H853 H8034

וְשָׁתַּחַת חֹזֶק מִכְסָא בְּ מִכְסָא בְּ אֶת יְנָגֵךְ לְ
bowed his throne his throne

וְשָׁתַּחַת חֹזֶק מִכְסָא בְּ מִכְסָא בְּ אֶת יְנָגֵךְ לְ
make the ~ and make

of Solomon

H8010 H8034 H1431 H853 H3678 H3678 H7812

בְּמִשְׁאָבֵן עַל
himself upon the bed

בְּמִשְׁאָבֵן עַל
And moreover the king's

H4428 H5921 H4904

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 47:31 (Parallel theme): And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.

1 Kings 1:37 (Kingdom): As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.