

# 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

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**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

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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**

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## **Study Questions**

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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

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וַיָּבֹאוּ	עֲבָדָיו	וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	לְבָרֵךְ	אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ
H1571	came	servants	And moreover the king's	to bless	H853	our lord
H935	H5650	H4428	H1288			H113
וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	דָּוִד	יֹאמַר	יֵטֵב	אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	יְהוָה
And moreover the king's	David	saying	better	God	H853	make the ~
H4428	H1732	H559	H3190	H430		H8034
וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	יְהוָה	וַיַּעַשׂ	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	מִכְסְּאֵהוּ	מִכְסְּאֵהוּ
of Solomon	make the ~	and make	H853	his throne	his throne	bowed
H8010	H8034	H1431		H3678	H3678	H7812
וְהַמֶּלֶךְ	עַל	הַמִּשְׁכָּב:				
And moreover the king's	H5921	himself upon the bed				
H4428		H4904				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.