

1 Kings 1:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

Analysis

And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

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 sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְאַדְנִי	יָרַא	מִפְתַּח	וְיָרַא	שְׁלָמָה	וְיָקַם	וְיָלַךְ	וְיָמַד
And Adonijah	feared	because	of Solomon	and arose	H1980	and caught hold	H2388
H138	H3372	H6440	H8010	H6965			

בְּמִזְבֵּחַ וְתַּחַזֵּךְ
on the horns of the altar
H7161 H4196

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 2:28 (Sacrifice): Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

