

# 1 Kings 1:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword.

## Analysis

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**And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword.**

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

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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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## **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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וַגַּד	שְׁלֹמֹה ה'	לֵאמֹר	הִנֵּה	אֲדֹנִי הוּא	יָרֶא	אֶת
And it was told	Solomon	saying	H2009	Behold Adonijah	feareth	H853
H5046	H8010	H559		H138	H3372	
הַמֶּלֶךְ	שְׁלֹמֹה ה'	וְהִנֵּה	אֵחָז	בְּקַרְנֵי	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	
Let king	Solomon	H2009	for lo he hath caught hold	on the horns	of the altar	
H4428	H8010		H270	H7161	H4196	
לֵאמֹר	וְשָׁבַע	לִי	כִּיּוֹם	הַמֶּלֶךְ	שְׁלֹמֹה ה'	אֵם
saying	swear	H0	unto me to day	Let king	Solomon	H518
H559	H7650		H3117	H4428	H8010	
יִמָּוֶת	אֶת	עַבְדִּי	בְּחֶרֶב:			
that he will not slay	H853	his servant	with the sword			
H4191		H5650	H2719			