

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

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אָתָּה	יְרָא	אָדָּנִי	הַנְּגָה	לְאַמְרָה	שְׁלָמָה	הַלְּבָד
And it was told	Solomon	saying		H2009		
H5046	H8010	H559				
					Behold Adonijah	
					H138	
						feareth
						H853
בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְתַחַת	לְבָנָן	הַנְּגָה	לְבָנָן	שְׁלָמָה	לְבָנָן
Let king	Solomon		H2009	for lo he hath caught hold		
H4428	H8010			H270		
						on the horns
						H7161
						of the altar
						H4196
אָמַם	שְׁלָמָה	הַלְּבָד	לְבָנָן	כִּיּוֹם	לְבָנָן	לְיִשְׁבַּע
Let king	Solomon		H4428	unto me to day		
				H3117		
						saying
						H559
בְּחֶרְבָּן	וְעָבֵד	אֶת	יְהִי יְמִינְךָ			
that he will not slay	his servant		H853	with the sword		
H4191				H5650		
						H2719

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