

1 Kings 1:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

Analysis

And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and 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

לֹא יָהִי הָאָם שָׁלָמָה לְבָנָו אִם אָמַר
If he will shew himself a worthy man
H2428 H1121 H1961 H518
said And Solomon H8010 H559

בְּשַׁת הַדְּבָרִים אִם אָמַר לֹא מִשְׁעָרָת
but if wickedness to the earth there shall not an hair
H7451 H518 H776 H8185 H5307 H3808

בְּבִנְיָמִינָה תִּמְצָא
in him he shall die
H4191 H0 H4672 shall be found

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 14:45 (Parallel theme): And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

2 Samuel 14:11 (Parallel theme): Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

Job 15:22 (Parallel theme): He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.

Proverbs 13:6 (Evil): Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

Proverbs 21:12 (Evil): The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.