

1 Kings 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.

Analysis

But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.

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 prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

בְּנֵי	יְהוָה	וְבָנֵי	הַנְּזִיר	וְבָנֵי	נָתָן	וְבָנֵי	נָבִיא
But Zadok	the priest	and Benaiah	the son	of Jehoiada	and Nathan	the prophet	
H6659	H3548	H1141	H1121	H3077	H5416	H5030	
וְשָׁמְעָ	רֵ	אָשֶׁר	וְהַגְּבוֹרִים	וְרַעַ	לְדוֹד	לְאַ	
and Shimei	and Rei	and the mighty men		H834	which belonged to David	H3808	
H8096	H7472	H1368			H1732		
עִם	בַּיִ	אַדְנָה					
H1961	H5973	were not with Adonijah					
		H138					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 4:18 (Parallel theme): Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin:

2 Samuel 20:25 (Parallel theme): And Sheva was scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:

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