

1 Kings 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-rogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

Analysis

And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-rogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

אָ בָן עַמְּךָ אֶלְעָבָד הַיְלֵד הַיְלֵד
slew And Adonijah sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone
H2076 H138 H6629 H1241 H4806 H5973 H68

כָל אֶת יְהִקְבָּא רְגֵל אֶל אֲשֶׁר בָּזְחָלְתָּה
of Zoheleth which is by Enrogel and called H853 H3605
H2120 H834 H681 H0 H5883 H7121

בְּמִלְחָמָה עֲבָדִים יְהִוָּדָה אֶנְשָׁי לְכָל כְּפָלָנִי בְּנֵי אֲפִינִי
all his brethren sons the king's H3605 H376 H3063 H5650 H4428
H251 H1121 H4428

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 17:17 (Kingdom): Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by En-rogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David.

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