

1 Kings 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;

Analysis

For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's apostasy and death, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

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. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How did Solomon's disobedience to God's clear commands lead to his downfall, and what warnings does this provide?
2. What role do relationships and alliances play in either strengthening or compromising our faith?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵל וְתַּבְּהִי וְתַּיְמִן אֶת־בְּאֹדוֹן־יְהוָה
H1961 H1961 For it came to pass when David H854 in Edom H1732 H123 H5927

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|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|------|--------|-----------|
| וַיַּאֲבֹרֶךְ | שֵׁרֶת | לְקַבֵּר | הַצָּבָא | אֶת | יָמִים | פָּסָל |
| and Joab | the captain | of the host | to bury | H853 | | the slain |
| H3097 | H8269 | H6635 | H6912 | | | H2491 |

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:14 (References David): And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

Deuteronomy 20:13 (Parallel theme): And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:

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