

1 Kings 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

Analysis

And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

בָּנָי	גַּנְבָּת	אֶת	תְּחִפָּנָס	אֲחֵת	לְזִוְתְּלָד	
bare	H0	And the sister	of Tahpenes	H853	and Genubath	his son
H3205		H269	H8472		H1592	H1121
וְיַהְיֵה	פְּרָעָה	בֵּית	וְרָא	תְּחִפָּנָס	וְתַגְמַל	הוּ
weaned	of Tahpenes	among	house	Pharaoh's	H1961	and Genubath
H1580	H8472	H8432	H1004	H6547		H1592
בָּנָי	פְּרָעָה:	בֵּית	וְרָא	תְּחִפָּנָס		
house	Pharaoh's	among	his son	Pharaoh's		
H1004	H6547	H8432	H1121	H6547		

