

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

בֶּן־יָ	גִּנְבָּת	אֶת	תַּחְפֵּנִי	אֶת	אָחֻתִּי	לֹא־יָלַדָהּ
his son	and Genubath	H853	of Tahpenes		And the sister	bare
H1121	H1592		H8472		H269	H3205
גִּנְבָּת	וְהִיא־	פַּרְעֹה־	בֵּית־	בֵּית־	תַּחְפֵּנִי	וַתִּגְמְלֵהוּ
and Genubath	H1961	Pharaoh's	house	among	of Tahpenes	weaned
H1592		H6547	H1004	H8432	H8472	H1580
פַּרְעֹה־	בֶּן־יָ	בֵּית־	פַּרְעֹה־	בֵּית־		
Pharaoh's	his son	among	Pharaoh's	house		
H6547	H1121	H8432	H6547	H1004		

