

1 Kings 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.

Analysis

And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְהָיָה	וַיִּשְׁמַע	בְּמִצְרַיִם	כִּי	נָשָׁךְ	דָּוִד	עִם
And when Hadad	heard	in Egypt	H3588	slept	that David	H5973
H1908	H8085	H4714		H7901	H1732	

אִתּוֹ	וְאִתְּ	אָבֹתָיו	וְיָוָאֵב	וְיָוָאֵב	וְיָוָאֵב	וְיָוָאֵב
with his fathers	H3588	was dead	and that Joab	the captain	of the host	said
H1		H4191	H3097	H8269	H6635	H559

וְהָיָה	אֶל	פַּרְעֹה	שָׁלַחְנִי	וְאֵלַי	אֶל
And when Hadad	H413	to Pharaoh	Let me depart	H1980	H413
H1908		H6547	H7971		

אֶרְצִי׃
to mine own country
H776

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 2:10 (References David): So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.