

1 Kings 11:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country?

And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

Analysis

Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

אָפָּה הַ מָּה כִּי פְּרָעָה לֹא וְאָמַרָּה				
And he answered	H0	Then Pharaoh	H3588	H4100
H559		H6547		H859
עַמְּךָ וְהַבָּקֵשׁ שְׁמַרְתָּ				
בָּסָר עַמְּךָ וְהַבָּקֵשׁ שְׁמַרְתָּ				
unto him But what hast thou lacked	H2638	H5973	H2005	with me that behold thou seekest
				H1245
כִּי לֹא וְאָמַרָּה אֶל לֹל כְּתָת				
to thine own country And he answered	H1980	H413	H776	H3808
				H3588
תְּשַׁלְּחֵנִי תְּשַׁלְּחֵנִי				
Nothing howbeit let me go Nothing howbeit let me go	H7971		H7971	

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