

1 Kings 11:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

Analysis

And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

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 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| וַיִּקְרַב ז | וְיִקְרַב י | אֶלָּש יְמָעֵלִי | וְיִקְרַב ז | שָׁר | |
| And he gathered | | | unto him and became captain | | |
| H6908 | H5921 | H376 | H1961 | H8269 | |
| over a band | slew | when David | | in Damascus | and dwelt |
| H1416 | H2026 | H1732 | H853 | H1980 | H3427 |
| וְיִשְׁבֶּה בְּדָמָשָׁךְ: | וְיִמְלַכֵּה בְּדָמָשָׁךְ: | | | | |
| therein and reigned | in Damascus | | | | |
| H4427 | H1834 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 10:18 (References David): And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.

2 Samuel 10:8 (Parallel theme): And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ish-tob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

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