

1 Kings 11:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

Analysis

And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

שׁוּׁתָּפָה	אֶחִיָּהּ	בִּשְׁלֵמָה	הַחֲדָשׁ	רֶאֱשֵׁר	עַל־יוֹ
caught	And Ahijah	garment	the new	H834	H5921
H8610	H281	H8008	H2319		
וַיִּקְרַע־הֶ	שָׁנָיִם	עֶשֶׂר	קִרְעִים:		
that was on him and rent	it in twelve	H6240	pieces		
H7167	H8147		H7168		