

1 Kings 11:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:

Analysis

Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:

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

Psalms 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

וְלֹא	אֶקַּח	אֶת	כָּל	הַמַּמְלָכָה	מִיַּד וְ	בְּיָד
H3808	Howbeit I will not take	H853	H3605	the whole kingdom	out of his hand	H3588
	H3947			H4467	H3027	
נָשִׁיאַ	אֲשַׁתְּ נָוִי	כָּל	יְמֵי	חַיָּיו	לְמַעַן	דָּוִד
him prince	but I will make	H3605	all the days	of his life	H4616	for David
H5387	H7896		H3117	H2416		H1732
עַבְדִּי	אֲשֶׁר	בְּחַרְתִּי	אֶת וְ	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁמַר	
my servant's	H834	sake whom I chose	H853	H834	because he kept	
H5650		H977			H8104	
מִצְוֹתַי	וְחֻקֹּתַי					
my commandments	and my statutes					
H4687	H2708					

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