

1 Kings 11:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

Analysis

And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וְלִבְנוֹ	אֶתְּ	שִׁבְטִי	אֶחָד	לְמַעַן	הָיוֹת	נִיר
And unto his son	will I give	tribe	one	H4616	H1961	may have a light
H1121	H5414	H7626	H259			H5216
לְדָוִיד	עַבְדִּי	כָּל	הַיָּמִים	לִפְנֵי	בֵּיר וּשְׁלָם	הָעִיר
that David	my servant	H3605	always	before	me in Jerusalem	the city
H1732	H5650		H3117	H6440	H3389	H5892
אֲשֶׁר	בָּחַרְתִּי	לִי	לָשׂוּם	שְׁמִי	שָׁם:	
H834	which I have chosen	H0	me to put	my ~	H8033	
	H977		H7760	H8034		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 15:4 (References David): Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:

1 Kings 11:13 (References David): Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

2 Kings 8:19 (Light): Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children.

Psalms 132:17 (References David): There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.

2 Chronicles 21:7 (Light): Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.

2 Samuel 21:17 (Light): But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.