

1 Kings 11:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

Analysis

And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

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

תָּאֹהֶן אֲשֶׁר בְּלֹעַת וְאַתָּה
H853 And I will take H3947 thee and thou shalt reign
H4427 H3605 H834 H183

וְשַׁרְאָל: עַל נְפָשָׁת כִּי לְךָ וְכִי יְתָה
according to all that thy soul H1961 and shalt be king H4428 H5921 H3478 over Israel

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 3:21 (Kingdom): And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

