

1 Kings 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

Analysis

Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of David's death and Solomon's consolidation of power, within the book's focus on succession narrative and establishment of Solomon's reign.

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. This passage describes events around 970 BCE during the transition from David to Solomon.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of clear succession planning and communication in leadership transitions?
2. What does Solomon's consolidation of power reveal about the relationship between justice, mercy, and political necessity?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּקְרַב ו	יָמָי	דָּוִד	לָמוֹת	וַיַּצֵּד	אֶת־
drew nigh	Now the days	of David	that he should die	and he charged	H853
H7126	H3117	H1732	H4191	H6680	
לְאֶמְרָוֹ	בֶּן־וְ	שְׁלֹמֹה			
Solomon	his son	saying			
H8010	H1121	H559			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 47:29 (Parallel theme): And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight,

put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:

Deuteronomy 31:14 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.

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