

1 Kings 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.

Analysis

And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	אָתָּה	יָדָעְתָּ	כִּי	לִי	הָיָה	הַמְּלוּכָה
And he said	H859	Thou knowest	H3588	H0	H1961	howbeit the kingdom
H559		H3045				H4410
כָּל	שֵׁמוֹ	וְשָׂרָא	לְ	פָנֵיהֶם		
H5921	set	H3605	was mine and that all Israel	their faces		
	H7760		H3478	H6440		
לְמַלְךְ	וַתִּסָּב	הַמְּלוּכָה	וַתְּהִי			
on me that I should reign	is turned about	howbeit the kingdom				
H4427	H5437	H4410	H1961			
וְיָאֵחַ	כִּי	מִיָּהּ	הָיָה	לֹא	הָיָה	
and is become my brother's	H3588	for it was his from the LORD				
H251		H3068		H1961	H0	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 1:25 (Kingdom): For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

1 Kings 1:5 (Kingdom): Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.