

# 1 Kings 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.

## Analysis

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**And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.**

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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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לֹא	כִּי	פָּתַח	לְךָ	אָמַרְתִּי	אָמַרְתִּי	נָא	לְשָׁלֵם	ה	I pray thee unto Solomon	the king	the king	לְאָמַרְתִּי
<b>And he said</b>	<b>And he said</b>			H4994					<b>I pray thee unto Solomon</b>	<b>the king</b>	H3588	H3808
H559		H559					H8010			H4428		
בְּ	יְ	יְ	אֶת	יְ	יְ	יְ	יְ	לְ	אֶת	אֶת	אֶת	אֶת
for he will not say		H853		thee		that he give	H0		me	me	me	me
H7725				H6440		H5414			Abishag			H49
וְ	וְ	וְ	אֲתָּה	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	לְ	אֲתָּה	אֲתָּה	אֲתָּה	אֲתָּה
the Shunammite				to wife								
H7767				H802								