

1 Kings 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Bath-sheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

Analysis

And Bath-sheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

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

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

אָל שֵׁל יְהוָה אָזַב רָאֵן וְבַת יְהוָה אֲתֶר
said H0 And Bathsheba Well H595 I will speak H5921 H413
H559 H1339 H2896 H1696

בְּלֹא:

for thee unto the king

H4428

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:15 (Parallel theme): The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.