

1 Kings 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.

Analysis

Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

זֹאת	מִתְּאַמֵּר	בְּ	שְׁאָלִ	וּ	אָנֹכִי	קָטָנָה	אֶעֱמֹד	תְּ	שְׁאָלָה	הָ	זֹאת
Then she said	petition		one		I desire						
H559	H7596		H259		H853	H408					
אֲשֶׁר	יְבָ	אֶת	זֹאת	לְ	הַ	בְּמִ	לְגַ	שְׁאָלִ	וּ	זֹאת	בְּ
for I will not say		me	Then she said		H0	And the king		I desire			
H7725	H853	H6440	H559			H4428		H7592			
אֶת	כִּ	לֹא	יְבָ	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	פְּנִים					
my mother	H3588	H3808	for I will not say	H853	me						
H517			H7725		H6440						