

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׁאֵלָהּ	אֶחָד	קֹטָנָה	אֲנֹכִי	שָׁאֵל י	מֶלֶךְ הָ	אֶל
Then she said	petition	one	small	H595	I desire	H853	H408
H559	H7596	H259	H6996		H7592		
אֲשֶׁר יב	אֶת	פְּנִיָּהּ:	וַיֹּאמֶר	לָהּ	הַמֶּלֶךְ	שָׁאֵל י	
for I will not say	H853	me	Then she said	H0	And the king	I desire	
H7725		H6440	H559		H4428	H7592	
אִמִּי י	כִּי	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר יב	אֶת	פְּנִיָּהּ:		
my mother	H3588	H3808	for I will not say	H853	me		
H517			H7725		H6440		