

1 Kings 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife.

Analysis

And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother 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

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

וַתֹּאמֶר	יֵת	אֶת	אֲבִישָׁג	הַשֻּׁנַמִּית	לְאֲדֹנֶיהָ
And she said	be given	H853	Let Abishag	the Shunammite	to Adonijah
H559	H5414		H49	H7767	H138
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אָחִי יְרֵמְיָהּ	לְאִשָּׁתָּה:				
thy brother	to wife				
H251	H802				
