

1 Kings 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then king Solomon sware by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

Analysis

Then king Solomon sware by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

לֵאמֹר יְשַׁבֵּעַ כִּי שְׁלֹמֹן הַמֶּלֶךְ לְפָנֵי הַבָּיִת בְּיַהְוָה יְהוָה יְשַׁבֵּעַ
swear Then king Solomon by the LORD saying do H0
H7650 H4428 H8010 H3068 H559 H3541 H6213

בְּנִפְשֵׁת וְאֶלְהִים יְהוָה וְאֶת יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה
God H3541 so to me and more also H3254 H3588 against his own life H5315

בָּזְהָה כִּי הַזְּבָר אַתְּ אֶת אַדְנִי הַזְּבָר
have not spoken if Adonijah H853 this word H2088 H1697

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 1:17 (References Lord): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

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