

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

לִּי	יַעֲשֶׂה	כֹּה	לֵאמֹר	בְּיְהוָה	שְׁלֹמֹה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיֵּשְׁבַע
	do	H3541	saying	H3068	Solomon	Then king	sware
	H6213		H559		H8010	H4428	H7650
בְּנִפְשׁוֹ	כִּי	יוֹסֵף	וְעוֹד	אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים			
against his own life	H3588	so to me and more	H3254	God			
H5315				H430			
הַזֶּה:	הַדָּבָר	אֵת	אֲדֹנִי־הוּא	דָּבָר			
H2088	this word	H853	if Adonijah	have not spoken			
	H1697		H138	H1696			

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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org