

1 Kings 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

Analysis

And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַיִּשְׁלַח	הַמֶּלֶךְ	שְׁלֹמֹה	בְּיָד	בֶּנֶי	בֶּן	יְהוֹיָדָע
sent	And king	Solomon	by the hand	of Benaiah	the son	of Jehoiada
H7971	H4428	H8010	H3027	H1141	H1121	H3077

וַיִּפֹּג	בּוֹ	וַיָּמָת:
and he fell	H0	upon him that he died
H6293		H4191

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:18 (Parallel theme): And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.