

1 Kings 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

Analysis

And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

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

בְּדִרְכֵּי לְלִכְתָּה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְהֹוָה מִשְׁמָךְ רְתָן אֶת לְשָׁמֶן ר

And keep H853 the charge of the LORD thy God H1980 in his ways H1870

H8104

H4931

H3068

H430

H1980

H1870

לְשָׁמֶן ר מִצְוָתֶיךָ יְהֹוָה מִשְׁפָטֶיךָ יְהֹוָה

And keep his statutes and his commandments and his judgments

H8104

H2708

H4687

H4941

לִמְעֵן מִשְׁנָה בְּתוּךְ תְּכַתָּה וְכַתְּבָתְךָ וְעֵדוּתֶיךָ יְהֹוָה

and his testimonies as it is written in the law of Moses

H5715

H3789

H8451

H4616

H4872

H7919

תְּשַׁכֵּךְ יְלָא אֲשֶׁר כָּל

that thou mayest prosper

H853

H3605

H834

תְּמַעַשְׁתָּה כָּל וְאֵת

in all that thou doest

H853 H3605

H6213

אֲשֶׁר תְּפַנִּה שְׁמָךְ

H834

תְּפַנִּה

שְׁמָךְ

and whithersoever thou turnest

H6437

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 29:9 (Word): Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

Psalms 119:111 (Parallel theme): Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

Psalms 119:2 (Parallel theme): Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

1 Chronicles 29:19 (Word): And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

Psalms 119:138 (Parallel theme): Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

Joshua 22:5 (Word): But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

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