

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

בְּדַרְכָּיו לֵל כֶּת אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ יְהוָה מִשְׁמֶ כֶּתן אֶת לִשְׁמֹר
And keep H8104 the charge H4931 of the LORD H3068 thy God H430 H1980 in his ways H1870

וּמִשְׁפָּטֵי יְיָ מִצְוֹתָיו חֻקֵּי יְיָ לִשְׁמֹר
And keep H8104 his statutes H2708 and his commandments H4687 and his judgments H4941

לִמּוֹעַן מֹשֶׁה בְּתוֹכָהּ כָּכָת וּבְכָתוֹב יְיָ
and his testimonies H5715 as it is written H3789 in the law H8451 of Moses H4872 H4616

כָּל יְאֹת תַּעֲשֶׂה תַּעֲשֶׂה יְיָ אֲשֶׁר כָּל יְאֹת תַּשְׁכֵּחַ יְיָ
that thou mayest prosper H7919 H853 H3605 H834 in all that thou doest H6213 H853 H3605

אֲשֶׁר תִּפְּנֶה שְׁמִי
H834 and whithersoever thou turnest H6437 H8033

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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