

1 Kings 2:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.

Analysis

And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לְקֹרְבָּן	עֲשֵׂה	כַּאֲשֶׁר	דָּבַר	וַיַּפְגַּע
said	H0	And the king	unto him Do	as he hath said	and fall
H559		H4428	H6213	H1696	H6293
וְבָרַתْ וְבָרַתْ	וְבָרַתْ	תִּבְסִיר	תִּבְסִיר	דָּם	דָּם
upon him and bury	him that thou mayest take away	H5493	blood	the innocent	
H6912			H1818	H2600	
וְשָׁפֵךְ	וְשָׁפֵךְ	מִשְׁלֵךְ	מִשְׁלֵךְ	בְּיַת	בְּיַת
shed	which Joab	H5921	from me and from the house		
H8210	H3097		H1004		
אָבִי					
of my father					
H1					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 35:33 (Blood): So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.

Exodus 21:14 (Parallel theme): But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.