

1 Kings 2:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

Analysis

Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְשָׁבוּ	דַּמִּיהֶם	וְכַרְאֵשׁ	יוֹאָב	וְכַרְאֵשׁ	
shall therefore return	Their blood	and upon the head	of Joab	and upon the head	
H7725	H1818	H7218	H3097	H7218	
וְעַל־זֶרְעוֹ	עוֹלָם	וְעַל־דָּוִד	וְעַל־זֶרְעוֹ	וְעַל־בֵּיתוֹ	
and upon his seed	ever	but upon David	and upon his seed	and upon his house	
H2233	H5769	H1732	H2233	H1004	
וְעַל־כִּסְאוֹ	יְהוָה	שָׁלֵוֹ	עַד	עוֹלָם	מִעַד
and upon his throne	H1961	shall there be peace	for	ever	H5973
H3678		H7965	H5704	H5769	
יְהוָה:					
from the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 2:32 (Blood): And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.