

1 Kings 2:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.

Analysis

And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְשָׁלַח	לְשָׁמְעֵי	זָקֵן אֶת	פֶּמֶת לְרֹא	וְיֹאמֶר אֶל	בְּנֵי אֶת
sent H7971	And the king H4428	and called H7121	for Shimei H8096	and said H559	unto him Build H1129
לְבָבֶךָ	בַּיְמָה וְשָׁלֵם	בְּיַד יְהוָה	וְשָׁבַת	לֹא שָׁמֵן	לְבָבֶךָ
לְבָבֶךָ	בְּיַד יְהוָה	וְשָׁבַת	בְּיַד יְהוָה	לֹא שָׁמֵן	לְבָבֶךָ
thee an house H1004	in Jerusalem H3389	and dwell H3427	and dwell H8033	and dwell H3808	thee an house H1004
תִּצְאֶנָּה:	מִשְׁמָרֶת	תִּאָנוּהָ:	מִשְׁמָרֶת	תִּאָנוּהָ:	תִּצְאֶנָּה:
there and go not forth H3318	H8033	thence any whither H575	thence any whither H575	thence any whither H575	there and go not forth H3318

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org