

1 Kings 2:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Shimei said unto the king, The saying is good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

Analysis

And Shimei said unto the king, The saying is good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

דָּבָר	כָּאֵשׁ ר	הַדָּבָר	ט וֹב	הֶמָּ לָךְ	שְׁמֵעִ י	וַיֹּאמֶר
	H834					
hath said		The saying	is good	the king	And Shimei	said
H1696		H1697	H2896	H4428	H8096	H559
שְׁמֵעִ י	וַיָּשָׁב	עֶבְדְּךָ	יַעֲשֶׂה ה	כִּי	הֶמָּ לָךְ	אֲדֹנָי
And Shimei	dwelt	so will thy servant	do		the king	as my lord
H8096	H3427	H5650	H6213	H3651	H4428	H113
רַבִּים:	יָמֵי	בִּירוּשָׁלַם				
many	days	in Jerusalem				
H7227	H3117	H3389				