

1 Kings 2:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants be in Gath.

Analysis

And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants be in Gath.

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

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

וַיְהִי י'	מִקֵּץ	שָׁנִים	שְׁלֹשׁ	וַיִּבְרַח ו'	שְׁנֵי
H1961	And it came to pass at the end	of three	years	ran away	that two
	H7093	H7969	H8141	H1272	H8147
עֲבָדֶיךָ	לְשִׁמְעִי	אֶל	אֶחָד יֵשׁ	בֶּן	מַעַכְהָ
Behold thy servants	Shimei	H413	unto Achish	son	of Maachah
H5650	H8096		H397	H1121	H4601
					H4428
בְּגֹת:	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	לְשִׁמְעִי	לֵאמֹר	הִנֵּה	עֲבָדֶיךָ
be in Gath	And they told	Shimei	saying	H2009	Behold thy servants
H1661	H5046	H8096	H559		H5650
בְּגֹת:					
be in Gath					
H1661					