

1 Kings 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

Analysis

That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

לְמַעַן	H4616	לֹא	H853	אֲשֶׁר	H1697	דִּבֶּר	H834	אֲשֶׁר	H1696	דִּבֶּר	H1696
לְמַעַן	may continue	יְהִי הָאָתָה	That the LORD	דִּבֶּר	his word	וְאֲשֶׁר	which he spoke	וְאֲשֶׁר	which he spoke	וְאֲשֶׁר	which he spoke
עַל	H5921	לְאָמֵן	H559	יִשְׁמַר	H8104	בְּתַיִם	H1121	אֶת	H853	עַל	H1870
עַל	concerning me saying	בְּאָמֵן	take heed	יִשְׁמַר	If thy children	בְּתַיִם	to their way	אֶת	to their way	עַל	to their way
לְפָנֵי	H1980	בְּאָמֵן	H3605	בְּכָל	H3824	לְבָב	H3605	וְבְכָל	H3605	לְבָב	H3605
לְפָנֵי	before	תְּמִימָה	before	בְּכָל	with all their heart	מִתְּבָבָב	with all their heart	וְבְכָל	with all their heart	לְבָב	with all their heart
נֶפֶשׁ	H5315	לְאָמֵן	H559	לֹא	H3808	יִכְרַת	H3772	לֹא	H0	לֹא	H0
נֶפֶשׁ	and with all their soul	concerning me saying	concerning me saying	לֹא	there shall not fail	תְּמִימָה	there shall not fail	לֹא	there shall not fail	לֹא	there shall not fail
אֲשֶׁר	H5921	מִתְּבָבָב	H3678	כַּפֵּן	H3478	יִשְׁרָאֵל:	H3478	אֲשֶׁר	H3478	אֲשֶׁר	H3478
אֲשֶׁר	he a man	on the throne	of Israel	אֲשֶׁר	of Israel	יִשְׁרָאֵל:	of Israel	אֲשֶׁר	of Israel	יִשְׁרָאֵל:	of Israel

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:25 (References Lord): Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

2 Kings 20:3 (Truth): I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

2 Samuel 7:25 (Word): And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.

Matthew 22:37 (References Lord): Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

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