

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

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| לִמְעַן H4616 | יָקֻם יָם may continue H6965 | יְהוָה הַ That the LORD H3068 | אֶת H853 | דְּבַר וְ his word H1697 | אֲשֶׁר H834 | דִּבֶּר which he spake H1696 |
| עָלַי H5921 | לְאֹמֵר concerning me saying H559 | אֲמַר H518 | יִשְׁמְרוּ וְ take heed H8104 | בְּנֵי יִכְ If thy children H1121 | אֶת H853 | דְּרֹכָם to their way H1870 |
| לְלֶכֶת H1980 | לִפְנֵי before H6440 | בְּאֵמֶת me in truth H571 | בְּכָל H3605 | לְבָבָם with all their heart H3824 | וּבְכָל H3605 | |
| וּבְכָל H3605 | נַפְשָׁם and with all their soul H5315 | לְאֹמֵר concerning me saying H559 | לֹא H3808 | יִכָּרֵת there shall not fail H3772 | לֵךְ H0 | |
| הָאִישׁ he a man H376 | יָמַעַל H5921 | כִּסֵּא on the throne H3678 | יִשְׂרָאֵל: of Israel H3478 | | | |

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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