

1 Kings 2:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath.

Analysis

And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from 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

1 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

אָל מְגַת: וַיִּלֶךְ חֲמֹר וְאֶת יִיחִבֵּשׁ שְׁמֵעַי וַיִּקָּם
arose **And Shimei** **and saddled** ^{H853} **his ass** ^{H1980} **from Gath** ^{H413}
H6965 H8096 H2280 H2543 H1661

אֶת יִיחִבֵּשׁ שְׁמֵעַי וַיִּבֵּא אֶת לִבְקָשׁ אַחִישׁ
to Achish **to seek** ^{H853} **his servants** ^{H1980} **And Shimei** **and brought** ^{H853}
H397 H1245 H5650 H8096 H935

מְגַת: עֲבָדָיו
his servants **from Gath**
H5650 H1661