

1 Kings 2:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word that I have heard is good.

Analysis

And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word that I have heard is good.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

בְּלֹא אֶלְיוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְשָׁמְעוּ וְיִקְרָא לְפָנָי לְרַבְנָה וְשָׁלַח
sent And the king and called for Shimei and said H413 H3808
H7971 H4428 H7121 H8096 H559

וְתֹאכַל בְּבָבֶל וְתֹאכַל בְּבָבֶל
unto him Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD and protested and said
H7650 H3068 H5749 H559

וְאֵלֹהִים בְּיַמִּים צָאתָתָךְ וּבְלָכַדְתָּךְ יְאֵלֹהִים
on the day thou goest out and walkest abroad any whither abroad any whither
H3117 H3318 H1980 H575 H575

טֹב אֶלְיוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר תְּמִימָה וְתַדְעַ תְּמִימָה וְתַדְעַ
Know Know H3588 die die and said H413 is good
H3045 H3045 H4191 H4191 H559 H2896

שְׁמַעְתִּי רְבָבֶל
unto me The word that I have heard
H1697 H8085

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