

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

Psalms 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

הָלַל וְאֵל יוֹ וְתֵּן אֱמֶר לְשִׁמְעִי וְקָרָא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְשָׁלַח

sent

H7971

And the king

H4428

and called

H7121

for Shimei

H8096

and said

H559

H413

H3808

וְתֵּן אֱמֶר בְּךָ וְאָעַד בִּיהוָה הַשְׁבַּעְתִּי יָךְ

unto him Did I not make thee to swear

H7650

by the LORD

H3068

and protested

H5749

H0

and said

H559

וְאֵן נָה וְאֵן נָה וְהִלַּכְתָּ צֵאתְךָ בִּי וּם

on the day

H3117

thou goest out

H3318

and walkest

H1980

abroad any whither

H575

abroad any whither

H575

טוֹב אֵל יוֹ וְתֵּן אֱמֶר תָּמַד וְתֵּן אֱמֶר כִּי יָדַע יָדַע ע

Know

H3045

Know

H3045

H3588

die

H4191

die

H4191

and said

H559

H413

is good

H2896

הַדָּבָר שָׁמַעְתִּי:

unto me The word

H1697

that I have heard

H8085