

1 Kings 2:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

Analysis

Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְעַת	לֹא	וְמִדְבָּר	שְׁמַרְתָּ	תִּשְׁבַּע	תִּאְתַּה	יְהִי
H4069	H3808	Why then hast thou not kept	H8104	H853	the oath	of the LORD
וְעַת	לֹא	וְמִדְבָּר	שְׁמַרְתָּ	תִּשְׁבַּע	תִּאְתַּה	יְהִי
H853	H4687	and the commandment	H834	H6680	that I have charged	H5921

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