

1 Kings 2:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

Analysis

The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

אָל	בְּפִתְחָה	לְנָא	וְיֵאָמַר	שָׁמַעַת	אַתָּה	יְדַעַת	אַתָּה
said	The king	H413	moreover to Shimei	H859	Thou knowest	H853	
H559	H4428		H8096		H3045		
כָּל	בְּשַׁעַתְהָ	אַשְׁר	יְדַע	לְבָבְךָ	אַשְׁר		
H3605	all the wickedness	H834	Thou knowest	which thine heart	H834		
	H7451		H3045	H3824			
עָשָׂתָךְ	לְדִוִּיד	אָבִיךָ	וַיָּבֹא	יְהִי	אַתָּה		
that thou didst	to David	my father	shall return	therefore the LORD	H853		
H6213	H1732	H1	H7725	H3068			
בְּרַאשְׁךָ							
all the wickedness	upon thine own head						
H7451	H7218						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:16 (Parallel theme): His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

Ezekiel 17:19 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head.

1 Samuel 25:39 (Evil): And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.

Proverbs 5:22 (Evil): His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

1 John 3:20 (Parallel theme): For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Romans 2:15 (Parallel theme): Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

John 8:9 (Parallel theme): And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Hosea 4:9 (Parallel theme): And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.

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