

1 Kings 2:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

Analysis

So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְיָאָמַרְתָּ	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהוָה	עַד	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	הַוְעָדָה	אֲתָּה	בְּמִלְחָמָה	לְרַבְנָה	וְיָצַא
commanded	So the king	H853	Benaiah	the son	of Jehoiada	which went out				
H6680	H4428		H1141	H1121	H3077					H3318
וְיָמַתָּ	בְּנֵי	וְיָמַתָּ	בְּנֵי	וְיָמַתָּ	בְּנֵי	וְיָמַתָּ	בְּנֵי	וְיָמַתָּ	בְּנֵי	וְיָמַתָּ
and fell	upon him	that he died	And the kingdom	was established	in the hand					
H6293	H0	H4191	H4467	H3559	H3027					
שְׁלֹמֹה:										
of Solomon										
H8010										

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 2:12 (Kingdom): Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

2 Chronicles 1:1 (Kingdom): And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly.

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