

1 Kings 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet.

Analysis

Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אֶתְּ הַ וְגַם	וְדַעְתָּ	אֲשֶׁר אֵת	לִי עָשָׂה הַ	לִי עָשָׂה הַ		
H1571	H859	H853	H834	H0		
	Moreover thou knowest		did			
		H3045	H6213			
יֹאב בְּ	בֶן	צְרוּיָה הַ	אֲשֶׁר הַ	עָשָׂה הַ	לְשְׁנֵי	שְׁרֵי
H3097	H1121	H6870	H834	H6213	H8147	H8269
also what Joab	the son	of Zeruiah	did	to the two	captains	
צָבָא וְ	שְׂרָאֵל	לְאַבְנֵר	בֶּן	נֵר	וְלְעָמָשָׁא	בֶּן
H6635	H3478	H74	H1121	H5369	H6021	H1121
of the hosts	of Israel	unto Abner	the son	of Ner	and unto Amasa	the son
וְתָר	וְהִרְגָּם	וְשָׁם	דָּמִי	מִלְחָמָה הַ	בְּשָׁלֵם	וְנָתַן
H3500	H2026	H7760	H1818	H4421	H7965	H5414
of Jether	whom he slew	and shed	the blood	of war	in peace	and put
דָּמִי	מִלְחָמָה הַ	בְּחִגְלָתוֹ	אֲשֶׁר הַ	בְּמִתְּנָה יוֹ		
H1818	H4421	H2290	H834	H4975		
the blood	of war	upon his girdle	that was about his loins			
וּבִנְעָל וְ	אֲשֶׁר הַ	בְּרִגְלָיו:				
H5275	H834	H7272				
and in his shoes	that were on his feet					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 3:27 (Blood): And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

2 Samuel 20:10 (Parallel theme): But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

2 Samuel 18:5 (Parallel theme): And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

2 Samuel 18:12 (Parallel theme): And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

2 Samuel 3:39 (Parallel theme): And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

2 Samuel 18:14 (Parallel theme): Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.