

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

לְכָלְכָלְךָ תְּבַנְתָּהּ וְגַם
H1571 H859

Moreover thou knowest

H3045

לְכָלְכָלְךָ תְּבַנְתָּהּ וְגַם
H853 H834

did

H0

H6213

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה בָּנָיו בְּנֵי זֶרְעוּיָה
also what Joab the son of Zeruiah

H3097

H1121

H6870

H834

did

H6213

H8147

H8269

לְשָׁנֵי בְּנֵי אַשְׁר
to the two captains

וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת
of the hosts of Israel unto Abner the son of Ner and unto Amasa the son

H6635

H3478

H74

H1121

H5369

H6021

H1121

וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת
of Jether whom he slew and shed the blood of war in peace and put

H3500

H2026

H7760

H1818

H4421

H7965

H5414

וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת
the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins

H1818

H4421

H2290

H4975

וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת וְאֵת
and in his shoes that were on his feet

H5275

H834

H7272

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.

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