

1 Kings 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I sware to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

Analysis

And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I sware to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

עַמְבּוֹתִים	וְהַבָּה	הַ	שְׁמַעַי	י	בֶּן	בֶּן	גֵּרָא	אֶת	בֶּן	גֵּרָא	בֶּן
H2009	H5973		And behold thou hast with thee Shimei		the son		of Gera				H0
			H8096		H1121		H1617				
בָּנִי	וְאֶת	מִבְּחָרִים	בִּימִנִּי	וְהַ	בְּלִלְךָ	בְּלִלְךָ	בְּנִמְךָ	צָתָת	בְּנִמְךָ	צָתָת	בְּנִמְךָ
a Benjamite	of Bahurim		H1931	which cursed	H7043	curse	H4834	me with a grievous			
H1145	H980					H7045		H4834			
וּמָתַתִּים	לְכָתָת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת	וְבַיִת
in the day	to Mahanaim		H1931	but he came down	H3381		H7125	to meet			
H3117	H4266					H3381		H7125			
בְּרִיד	בְּעֵשֶׂב	בְּיִהְיוֹה	בְּרִיד	רָאשָׁה	לְ	אָמֵן	אָמֵן	לְאָמֵן	רָאשָׁה	לְאָמֵן	רָאשָׁה
me at Jordan	and I swear		H0	to him by the LORD	H3068	saying	H518				
H3383	H7650					H559		H518			
אַמִּיתָךְ	בְּרִיבָה										
I will not put thee to death	with the sword										
H4191	H2719										

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