

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 swore 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 swore 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

הַיְמִינִי	מִבְּחָרִים	וְהָיָא	קִלְלָנִי	קִלְלָהּ	נִמְךָ צֶת
a Benjamite	of Bahurim	H1931	which cursed	curse	me with a grievous
H1145	H980		H7043	H7045	H4834
בְּיוֹם	לָכֶתִּי	מַחֲנֶיךָ	וְהָיָא	יָבֹד	לִקְרָאתִי
in the day	H1980	to Mahanaim	H1931	but he came down	to meet
H3117		H4266		H3381	H7125
בַּיַּרְדֵּן	וְאָשָׁ בָּעַ	לֹא	בַּיהוָה	לֵאמֹר	אֵם
me at Jordan	and I sware	H0	to him by the LORD	saying	H518
H3383	H7650		H3068	H559	
אֶמִיתְּךָ			בְּחֶרֶב:		
I will not put thee to death			with the sword		
H4191			H2719		