

1 Kings 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

Analysis

Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

אֵל	וְעַפְתָּה	תִּנְקַח	הַזֶּ	אֵל	וְכִ	אִישׁ	מְ	מְ
H6258	H408	Now therefore hold him not guiltless	H3588	man		for thou art a wise		
		H5352		H376		H2450		
אַ	פָּתָה	אֵל	יִדְעַת	אֵשׁ	רָא	תִּ	תְּעַשָּׂה	לְ
H859	and knowest	H853		H834			what thou oughtest to do	H0
	H3045						H6213	
אֶת	וְהַזְבְּדָךְ	אֶת		שִׁיבַת	וְ	בְּ	שָׁאֹל:	
bring thou down	H853	unto him but his hoar head	H7872	with blood	H1818	מְ	to the grave	H7585
H3381								

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 2:6 (Parallel theme): Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.

Genesis 42:38 (Parallel theme): And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Genesis 44:31 (Parallel theme): It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave.