

1 Kings 3:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

Analysis

And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's wisdom and the famous judgment, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

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. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְרַבְנָה וְהַפְתֵּר אֶת גִּזְרָתֵי כִּי לְדֹבֶר אֶת בְּמִלְחָמָה בְּמִלְחָמָה בְּמִלְחָמָה וְלֹשֶׁן יְמִינְךָ וְאַתָּה אָמַר
said And the king Divide H853 child the living in two and give
H559 H4428 H1504 H3206 H2416 H8147 H5414

לֹא חֵתֶת בְּמִצְרָיִם וְאַתָּה לֹא חֵתֶת בְּמִצְרָיִם
and half to the one and half to the one
H853 H2677 H259 H853 H2677 H259

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 25:8 (Parallel theme): Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.