

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

Psalms 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	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיִּדְּ	אֶת	הַיֶּלֶד	הַחַי	לְשֵׁנֵי	וַיִּתֵּן
said	And the king	Divide	H853	child	the living	in two	and give
H559	H4428	H1504		H3206	H2416	H8147	H5414
אֶת	הַחֵצַי	לְאַחַת	וְאֶת	הַחֵצַי	לְאַחַת		
H853	and half	to the one	H853	and half	to the one		
	H2677	H259		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.