

1 Kings 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

Analysis

Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

בְּנֵי לְגָתָן אֶתְמָתָן בְּאֶשְׁתָּא אֶשְׁר בְּנֵה
Then spake the woman H834 child her the living H413 was unto the king
H559 H802 H1121 H2416 H4428

תִּנְאַדְנֵי בְּ אֶתְמָתָן בְּנֵה
yearned for her bowels child Then spake O my lord give
H3588 H3648 H7356 H1121 H559 H994 H113 H5414

זֶה אַתָּה לְהָ
H0 H853 child her the living and in no wise
H3205 H2416 H4191
זֶה אַתָּה תִּמְמִית הַזֶּה
and in no wise H408 H4191 H2063

יְהִי הַלְאַגְמָן אֶתְמָתָן
Then spake H1571 H0 H1571 H0 H3808 H1961
H559

גָּזְרָה

Let it be neither mine nor thine but divide

H1504

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:15 (Kingdom): Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Jeremiah 31:20 (References Lord): Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.

1 John 3:17 (Parallel theme): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Genesis 43:30 (Parallel theme): And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

Hosea 11:8 (Parallel theme): How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

Philippians 1:8 (Parallel theme): For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:1 (Parallel theme): If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

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