

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

אִם רַת	הָאִשָּׁה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּנָה	הֵם י	אֶל	הֵם לָךְ		
Then spake	the woman	H834	child	her the living	H413	was unto the king		
H559	H802		H1121	H2416		H4428		
כִּי	נִכְמַר ו	רַחֲמֶיהָ	עַל	בְּנָה	אִם רַת	בִּי	אֲדֹנִי	תִּנּוּ
H3588	yearned	for her bowels	H5921	child	Then spake	O	my lord	give
	H3648	H7356		H1121	H559	H994	H113	H5414
לָהּ	אֶת וּד	הַיֵּל וּד	הֵם י	תַּמִּיתָ הוּ	אֶל	תַּמִּיתָ הוּ	וְלֹא אֶת	
H0	H853	child	her the living	and in no wise	H408	and in no wise	H2063	
		H3205	H2416	H4191		H4191		
אִם רַת	גַּם	לִי	גַּם	לָךְ	לֹא	יְהוָה		
Then spake	H1571	H0	H1571	H0	H3808	H1961		
H559								

גָּזְרוּ:

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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