

1 Kings 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

Analysis

Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

הִנֵּה יְהוָה בְּפָנֵינוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לְךָ
answered Then the king and said Give H0 H853 child her the living
H6030 H4428 H559 H5414 H3205 H2416

אָתְּ אֵת תָּמִית הַזֶּה לֹא
and in no wise H3808 and in no wise H1931 it she is the mother
H4191 H4191 H517

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