

1 Kings 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.

Analysis

And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of queen of sheba and solomon's wealth, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. The temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How did Solomon's disobedience to God's clear commands lead to his downfall, and what warnings does this provide?
2. What role do relationships and alliances play in either strengthening or compromising our faith?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹבֶת	יְהוָה	מִסְעָה	דָּבָר	אַלְמָגִים	עֵץ	אֶת	בְּמִלְחָמָה	וְיָעַשְׂתָּה
made	And the king	H853	trees	no such almag	pillars	for the house		
H6213	H4428		H6086	H484	H4552			H1004
לְשָׁרֶם	יְמִינָה	וְתַבְלֵל	יְמִינָה	וְכָנְרָה	וְתַתְ	בְּמִלְחָמָה	וְלֹבֶת	יְהוָה
of the LORD	for the house	H1004	And the king	harps	also and psalteries	for singers		
H3068			H4428	H3658	H5035			H7891
לְאָלָה	בָּאָלָה	כִּי	עֵץ	אַלְמָגִים	עֵץ	אֶת	בְּמִלְחָמָה	לְאָלָה
H3808	there came	H3651	trees	no such almag	H3808	nor were seen		H5704
			H6086	H484				
וְיָמִים	בָּיִום							
unto this day	H2088							
H3117								

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