

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	הֶמָּה לָךְ	אֶת	עֵצֵי י	אַלְמֻגִּים	מִסְעָד	וּלְבַיִת
made	And the king	H853	trees	no such almug	pillars	for the house
H6213	H4428		H6086	H484	H4552	H1004
יְהוָה	וּלְבַיִת	הֶמָּה לָךְ	וְכִנֹּר וְ	וּנְבִלִים	לְשָׁרִים	
of the LORD	for the house	And the king	harps	also and psalteries	for singers	
H3068	H1004	H4428	H3658	H5035	H7891	
לֹא	בָּא	יָכֹן	עֵצֵי י	אַלְמֻגִּים	וְלֹא	עָד
H3808	there came	H3651	trees	no such almug	H3808	H5704
	H935		H6086	H484		H7200
הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה:					
unto this day	H2088					
H3117						

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