

1 Kings 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

Analysis

The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

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 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

מַעַל שֵׁשׁ	לְכִסֵּה	וְרֹאשׁ	עָגֹל	לְכִסֵּה	מֵאַחֲרָיו
had six	steps	The throne	and the top	was round	The throne
H8337	H4609	H3678	H7218	H5696	H3678
הַיְדוֹת:	אֶל	וּמִזֵּה	מִזֵּה הַ	מִקְוֹם	הַשֵּׁבִי
and there were stays			on either side	on the place	of the seat
H3027	H2088	H2088	H413	H4725	H7675
וּשְׁנֵי	אֲרִי	עֹמְדִים	אֶצְלֵ	הַיְדוֹת:	
and two	lions	stood	beside	and there were stays	
H8147	H738	H5975	H681	H3027	