

1 Kings 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

Analysis

And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

וַתָּבֹא יְרוּשָׁלַיִם בַּחֵיל כָּבֵד מְאֹד גַּם מִלִּים וְנִשְׂאָה יָמָּה
And she came to Jerusalem train great and very with camels that bare
H935 H3389 H2428 H3515 H3966 H1581 H5375

אֶל וַתָּבֹא יָקָרָה וְאֶבֶן מְאֹד רַב וְזָהָב בְּשִׁמְיָם
spices gold much and very stones and precious And she came
H1314 H2091 H7227 H3966 H68 H3368 H935 H413

עִם הִיא אֲשֶׁר כָּל אֵת אֶל יוֹ וַתִּדְּבַר שְׁלֹמֹה
to Solomon she communed
H8010 H1696 H413 H853 H3605 H834 H1961 H5973

לִבָּהּ:
with him of all that was in her heart
H3824

Additional Cross-References

Acts 25:23 (Parallel theme): And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.