

1 Kings 10:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

Analysis

And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

עַל	שָׁם	עָמְדִים	אֶרְבֵּי יָם	עָשָׂר	וְשָׁנָיִם
	H8033	H5921		H6240	
		stood	lions		And twelve
		H5975	H738		H8147
וּמִזֶּה	הַמֵּעַל	וְהַמֵּתָּה	וְהַמֵּתָּה	וְהַמֵּתָּה	וְהַמֵּתָּה
		steps	there on the one side and on the other upon the six		
		H4609	H8337		
מִמְּלָכוֹת:	לְכָל	כִּי	נַעַשׂ	הָ	לֹא
	H3605				
in any kingdom		there was not the like	made		
H4467		H3651	H6213		H3808

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 49:9 (Parallel theme): Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

Numbers 24:9 (Parallel theme): He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

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