

# 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

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**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

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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

על שם עמד ים ארי ים עשר ושנין ים

**And twelve** H6240 **lions** H738 **stood** H8033 H5921  
H9147 H5075

ומז'ה מז'ה המועל ות ש ש

**there on the one side and on the other upon the six** **steps** H2088 H2088  
H8327 H4600

לֹא	נָעַשׂ	הָ	כִּי	לְכָל	מַלְכּוֹת:
H3808	<b>made</b>	<b>there was not the like</b>		H3605	<b>in any kingdom</b>
H6213		H3651		H4467	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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