1 Kings 10:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of
> Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish,
> bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

Analysis

For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

כִּי	אֳנִי	יֳשׁ תַרְשִׁ	לַמֶּ לֶךְ	בַּ ם	עֳ י אֳנִי	חִירָ ם
H3588	**a navy**	**of Tharshish**	**For the king**	**had at sea**	H5973 **a navy**	**of Hiram**
	H590	H8659	H4428	H3220	H590	H2438

אַחַת	לְשָׁל שׁ	שָׁנִ ים וְאֳ	תָּב וֹא	אֳנִי	יֳשׁ תַרְשִׁ	נֹשְׂאֵ ת	זָהָ ב
once	**in three**	**years**	**came**	**a navy**	**of Tharshish**	**bringing**	**gold**
H259	H7969	H8141	H935	H590	H8659	H5375	H2091

סֶף	וָכֶ	שֶׁנְהַבּ ים	וְקֹפ ים	וְתֻכִּיִּים:
and silver		**ivory**	**and apes**	**and peacocks**
H3701		H8143	H6971	H8500

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:48 (Parallel theme): Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-geber.

Psalms 48:7 (Parallel theme): Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

Psalms 72:10 (Kingdom): The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Genesis 10:4 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

Isaiah 23:10 (Parallel theme): Pass through thy land as a river, O daughter of Tarshish: there is no more strength.

Isaiah 23:6 (Parallel theme): Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle.

Isaiah 23:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.

Isaiah 60:9 (Parallel theme): Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

Isaiah 66:19 (Parallel theme): And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Isaiah 2:16 (Parallel theme): And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.