

1 Kings 10:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem.

Analysis

And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וַאֲסָף	שְׁלֹמֹה	הָרָכָב	פָּרָשִׁים	וַיְהִי	לֹ	אֶלְף
gathered together	And Solomon	chariots	and horsemen	H1961	H0	thousand
H622	H8010	H7393	H6571			H505
וְאַרְבַּע	מֵאוֹת	הָרָכָב	וּשְׁנַיִם	עֶשֶׂר	אֶלְף	פָּרָשִׁים
and four	hundred	chariots	and twelve	H6240	thousand	and horsemen
H702	H3967	H7393	H8147		H505	H6571
וַיִּנָּחֵם	בְּעָרֵי	הָרָכָב	וְעִם	הֶמֶלֶךְ	בִּירוּשָׁלַם:	
whom he bestowed	in the cities	chariots	H5973	and with the king	at Jerusalem	
H5148	H5892	H7393		H4428	H3389	

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 9:25 (Kingdom): And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.

1 Kings 4:26 (Parallel theme): And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

Deuteronomy 17:16 (Parallel theme): But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

1 Kings 9:19 (References Jerusalem): And all the cities of store that Solomon had, and cities for his chariots, and cities for his horsemen, and that which Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.