

1 Kings 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom,
and the house that he had built,

Analysis

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us'). Solomon's God-given wisdom points to Christ, 'in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Colossians 2:3).

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 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

וַיֵּרָא	וּמַלְכַּת	שֶׁבַע	אֵת	כָּל	חֲכָמָת	שְׁלֹמֹה הַ
had seen	And when the queen	of Sheba	H853	H3605	wisdom	all Solomon's
H7200	H4436	H7614			H2451	H8010
וְהַבַּיִת	אֲשֶׁר	בָּנָה:				
and the house	H834	that he had built				
H1004		H1129				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 12:42 (Parallel theme): The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the

uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

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