

1 Kings 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

Analysis

Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

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. 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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַתֵּרָא יְהוָה	כִּי אָתִי	אֲשֶׁר עָד	לְדַבֵּר יָם	הָאֵלֶּם נָתַי	וְלֹא
	until I came		not the words	Howbeit I believed	
	H935		H1697	H539	H3808
הָיוּ כֶּתֶד	הֵחֵצִי	לִי	הַגִּד	לֹא	עֵינַי
exceedeth	it and behold the half		was not told		and mine eyes
H3254	H2677	H0	H5046	H3808	H5869
שָׁמַעְתִּי:	אֲשֶׁר	הַשְּׁמוּעָה	אֶל	וְטוֹב	חִכְמָה
which I heard		the fame		and prosperity	me thy wisdom
H8085	H834	H8052	H413	H2896	H2451

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 2:9 (Parallel theme): But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 John 3:2 (Parallel theme): Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org