

1 Kings 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

Analysis

Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

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

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

לִפְנֵי יְה	תִּמְמָה יְה	הַשְׁמָעָה יְמָה	אֶת	סְכָמָתֶךָ
before	continually	thee and that hear	H853	thy wisdom
H6440	H8548	H8085		H2451

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:34 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

