

1 Kings 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

Analysis

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's apostasy and death, 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

וְאֵת כָּבֵד וְתִּכְרֵי וְתִּנְשֵׁי יְמֵי אֶפְבָּק בְּשִׁלְמָה וְבְּפָתָן לְגַם
But king Solomon loved women strange many H853
H4428 H8010 H157 H802 H5237 H7227

בְּתִי פְּרָעָה מִזְמָבֵר וְתִּנְשֵׁי עַמְּנִיּוֹת
together with the daughter of Pharaoh women of the Moabites Ammonites
H1323 H6547 H4125 H5984

חִתְּנִיתָן אֶדְמֹנִי תְּאַד מִזְדְּנִי תְּ
Edomites Zidonians and Hittites
H130 H6722 H2850

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 17:17 (Parallel theme): Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

Proverbs 6:24 (Parallel theme): To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Proverbs 2:16 (Parallel theme): To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;

Proverbs 7:5 (Parallel theme): That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

Proverbs 22:14 (Parallel theme): The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

1 Kings 11:8 (Parallel theme): And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

1 Kings 3:1 (Kingdom): And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.
