

1 Kings 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

Analysis

Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

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 John 4:8 — God is 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

מִן	הַגּוֹיִם	אָמַר	אֵשֶׁר	יְהוָה	אֵל
H4480	Of the nations	H834	said	concerning which the LORD	H413
	H1471	H559		H3068	
בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לֹא	יָבֹאוּ	בָּהֶם	לֹא
unto the children	of Israel	H3808	Ye shall not go in	H0	H1992
H1121	H3478		H935		H3808
יָבֹאוּ	בָּהֶם	אֵינִי	וְהִטּוּ	אֶת	לִבְבְּךָ
Ye shall not go in	H0	unto you for surely	they will turn away	H853	your heart
H935		H403	H5186		H3824
אַחֲרֵי	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	בָּהֶם	דָּבַר	שְׁלֹמֹה	לְאַהֲבָה:
after	their gods	H0	clave	Solomon	unto these in love
H310	H430		H1692	H8010	H157

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:16 (References God): And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Romans 12:9 (Love): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Revelation 2:4 (Love): Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Romans 1:32 (References God): Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Malachi 2:11 (Love): Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

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