

1 Kings 11:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

Analysis

Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

אֲשֶׁר יָעָוּן		עָזְבוּ וְנִי		וַשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ	
H3282	H834	H5800		H7812	
Because that they have forsaken		me and have worshipped			
לַעֲשֹׂתֶתָּהּ		אֱלֹהֵי יָ		צִדְוִין	
Ashtoreth		the god		of the Zidonians	
H6253		H430		H6722	
לְכִמּוֹשׁ		אֱלֹהֵי יָ		מוֹאָב	
Chemosh		the god		of the Moabites	
H3645		H430		H4124	
וְלֹא		עַם וִן		הָלְכוּ וְ	
H3808		H5983		H1980	
and have not walked					
בְּדַרְכֵי יָ		לַעֲשׂוֹת		הַיָּשָׁר	
in my ways		to do		that which is right	
H1870		H6213		H3477	
בְּעֵינַי יָ		וְלִקְחֵת יָ			
in mine eyes		and to keep my statutes			
H5869		H2708			
וּמִשְׁפָּטַי יָ		כַּדָּוִד		אָבִיו:	
and my judgments		as did David		his father	
H4941		H1732		H1	