

1 Kings 11:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.

Analysis

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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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

אָשָׁר כָּל אַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע אָמֵן וְכִי הַ H1961 H518 And it shall be if thou wilt hearken H8085 H853 H3605 H834

אַצְרָב	וְלֹכֶת	בְּדָבָר	עַש	הַשְׁרָאֵל
unto all that I command	thee and wilt walk	in my ways	and do	that is right
H6680	H1980	H1870	H6213	H3477

בְּעֵינִי לְשֵׁם וּרְקֻמִּי וּמִצּוֹת וְפָאֵשׁ רַע שֵׁה in my sight to keep my statutes and my commandments H834 and do H5869 H8104 H2708 H4687 H6213

לְדִי דָּוִיד	as David	עַבְדָּךְ	עַבְדָּךְ	בֵּית יְהִי	בֵּית יְהִי	לְבָבֶךָ	בֵּית	תָּאַמְּן
H1732	my servant	H1961	H5973	as I built	H1129	H0	house	thee a sure
	H5650						H1004	H539

ישָׁרָאֵל: אַתָּה לְבִנְיָתָהּ וְבֶן יְתִי לְדִין דְּבָאֵשׁ רַ

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 7:11 (References Israel): And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

Joshua 1:5 (Parallel theme): There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 31:8 (Parallel theme): And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.