

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

Psalms 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

אִם יְהִי הֵ	וְתִשְׁמַע	אֶת כָּל רַ	אֲשֶׁר	
H1961	H518	H853	H3605	H834
And it shall be if thou wilt hearken				
H8085				
אֶצְוָה	וְהִלַּכְתָּ	בְּדַרְכֵי י	עֲשֵׂה הֵ	הַיָּשָׁר רַ
H6680	H1980	H1870	H6213	H3477
unto all that I command thee and wilt walk in my ways and do that is right				
בְּעֵינַי	לִשְׁמֹר	חֻקֹּתַי	וּמִצְוֹתַי י	עֲשֵׂה הֵ כְּאֲשֶׁר רַ
H5869	H8104	H2708	H4687	H834
in my sight to keep my statutes and my commandments				
H6213				
לְדָוִד דַּ	עֶבְדִּי י	יְהִי יְהִי	עַמִּי רַ	בְּנֵי יְהִי
H1732	H5650	H1961	H5973	H1129
as David my servant as I built				
H0				
house thee a sure				
H1004				
H539				
כְּאֲשֶׁר רַ	בְּנֵי יְהִי	לְדָוִד דַּ	וְנָתַתִּי י	לְךָ אֶת
H834	H1129	H1732	H5414	H0
as I built as David and will give				
H853				
Israel				
H3478				

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.