

1 Kings 11:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

Analysis

And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

And the time	H3117	וְזֹםְן יְמִינָה	H834	מָלַךְ	H4427	אֲשֶׁר	H8010	שְׁלָמָה	H3389	כִּל	H5921	עַל	H3605	בֵּרֶשֶׁת
over all Israel	H3478	אֶרְבָּעִים	H705	שְׁנָה:	H8141	וְשָׁבָא לְ								

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