

1 Kings 11:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

Analysis

Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

אָז H227	יִבְנֶה ה' אֶת H1129	שְׁלֹמֹה ה' H8010	בָּמָה ה' H1116	לְכִמּוֹשׁ H3645	שֶׁקֶץ H8251
of Moab H4124	build H1129	Then did Solomon H8010	an high place H1116	for Chemosh H3645	the abomination H8251
בְּמוֹצֵי הַבֵּית H4124	בְּהִלָּה H2022	אֶשֶׁר H834	עַל H5921	פְּנֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם H6440	יְרוּשָׁלַם H3389
of Moab H4124	in the hill H2022	that is before H6440	Jerusalem H3389	and for Molech H4432	
שֶׁקֶץ H8251	בְּנֵי יְ H1121	עַמּוֹן: H5983			
the abomination H8251	of the children H1121	of Ammon H5983			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:29 (Parallel theme): Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites.

Judges 11:24 (Parallel theme): Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess.

Acts 7:43 (Parallel theme): Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

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