

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

שָׁקֵן־זֶבֶל לְכָמֹשׁ בְּתַמְתַּת הַעֲלֵמָה יְבָנֵת הַעֲלֵמָה
H227 build Then did Solomon an high place for Chemosh the abomination
H1129 H8010 H1116 H3645 H8251

וְלֹמַד־לְהַרְחֵל מִירוּשָׁלָם יְרֻשָּׁלָם וְלֹמַד־לְהַרְחֵל מִמּוֹאָב
of Moab in the hill that is before Jerusalem and for Molech
H4124 H2022 H834 H5921 H6440 H3389 H4432

שָׁקֵן־זֶבֶל בְּנֵי עֲמֹן:
the abomination of the children of Ammon
H8251 H1121 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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