

1 Kings 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

Analysis

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

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 sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְכֵן	וְכֵן	וְכֵן	וְכֵן	וְכֵן	וְכֵן
H3651	And likewise did	H3605	wives	he for all his strange	which burnt incense
	H6213		H802	H5237	H6999

וְכֵן	וְכֵן
and sacrificed	unto their gods
H2076	H430